
Hunger and Thirst

Dear Friends in Christ,

Blessed are they who hunger and thirst for righteousness (Mt 5:6). Notice the verb's present tense. This kind of hungering and thirsting -- for holiness and holy things -- does not promise a blessing later. To hunger and thirst for righteousness brings blessing here and now. By doing so we participate in our Lord's own hunger and thirst for the Father's will and for our holiness. A good thing to keep in mind as we continue our unexpected Eucharistic fast. When without the Eucharist, may we ever cultivate that proper hunger and thirst.

Updates...

Rectory Office Hours. Like so many others, our office staff has transitioned to telework as much as possible. Our office will remain open from 9AM to 1245PM Monday to Friday. Of course, the priests can always be reached via our emergency phone.

What's with the ropes? Those of you who have popped in the church for a visit (and there are a lot of you!) or for confession have doubtless noticed the ropes cordoning off the transepts (arms) of the church. How could you not? They're meant to be noticed! We've blocked off those sections for several reasons. First, by cordoning them off, it means that we can use them for hearing confessions with more social distancing. Also, since our cleaning staff is wiping down the pews nightly, this abbreviates the area needing to be cleaned.

Eucharistic Adoration. Especially in these difficult times, we want to encourage people to come to our Eucharistic Lord both for consolation and to intercede with Him for the world. Of course, we want to do so responsibly, in accord with the guidance of social distancing. Please visit the [website](#) we've set up to arrange for visits. We have listed it in segments of 15 minutes so that people can rotate through. There are slots for 5 people

every fifteen minutes. Since there can be no more than 10 people in the church at a time, we hope that having 5 people sign up per 15 minutes will both ensure that our Lord has adorers and leave room for "walk ins." *Per the CDC guidelines those medically vulnerable or over the age of 65 are asked to stay at home.*

Blood Drive. Unfortunately, the demands on American Red Cross are such that they have to reschedule the blood drive initially scheduled for tomorrow. I will keep you posted on the new date.

Rectory Ramblings. That's the name for our new theology talk show at Saint James! Thank you to all who submitted questions already. It should be a lively, interesting conversation. We will live-stream on the parish Facebook page *tomorrow at 8PM.*

Through the intercession of our Lady and Saint James, may the Lord bless and keep you.

Sincerely in Christ,

Fr. Scalia

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