



ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI CATHOLIC CHURCH

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Dear Parishioners,

The Church is responding to the problems we all face as a result of this pandemic with great seriousness and generosity. The Holy Father is throwing wide open the doors of the Church's storehouses of grace for the faithful.

SPECIAL INDULGENCES

By the Decree of the Apostolic Penitentiary, the Holy Father has granted special Indulgences to the faithful in the current pandemic.

Who can receive it?

All faithful who are suffering from COVID-19 disease, or are quarantining, the family members who care for them, even by prayer, health-care workers, all who care for the affected in any capacity including prayer, all faithful who offer a visit to the Blessed Sacrament, or Eucharistic Adoration, or reading the Holy Scriptures for at least half an hour, or the recitation of the Holy Rosary, or the pious exercise of the Way of the Cross, or the recitation of the Chaplet of Divine Mercy, to implore from Almighty God the end of this epidemic, relief for those who are afflicted, and eternal salvation for those whom the Lord has called to Himself.

Conditions to receive it:

1. Unite spiritually through the media to the celebration of Holy Mass and receive spiritual Communion.
2. Recite the Holy Rosary or the pious practice of the Way of the Cross or other forms of devotion, or recite the Apostles' Creed, or the Lord's Prayer.
3. Recite a pious invocation to the Blessed Virgin Mary, offering this trial in a spirit of faith in God and charity toward our brothers and sisters with the will to fulfil the usual conditions (sacramental Confession, Eucharistic Communion, and prayer according to the Holy Father's intentions), when that becomes possible.

MEANS OF SPIRITUAL PROTECTION

As Catholics, the Church has given us many means of spiritual protection. Some of them are holy water, blessed salt, the brown scapular, and medallions. I have made some of these available at the Historic Church. Please feel free to take some with you when you come for your personal prayer. Some of them can be ordered online as well. The Historic church is open for prayer 7 days a week 8 a.m. – 6 p.m. Bless yourselves and your families with the Holy water. The blessing prayer is on the home page of our parish website. Click the on "Stay connected" link. Spread a bit of blessed salt on the property where your home is, and wear a scapular or a holy object like a medallion or a cross on your body always. I have enrolled all those who will be wearing the Scapular. The Scapular is a silent prayer that shows one's complete consecration and dedication to the Blessed Virgin Mary. The Scapular is a devotion whereby we venerate her, love her, and trust in her protection, and we tell her these things every moment of the day by simply wearing the Brown Scapular. "It is a sign of salvation, a sure safeguard in danger, a pledge of peace and of my special protection until the end of the ages."



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Picture of Divine Mercy

I would also encourage you to place a picture of the divine mercy on the front door of your home, facing outward. If you don't have this Image, please visit TheDivineMercy.org/DivineMercyImage, download it for free, and print it out. If you want me to bless the picture, leave it on the back pew of the Historic Church with your name on it, or you may invoke a blessing yourself saying:

“Oh, Lord, I seek your blessing upon this image, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Amen.”

Our Lord made the following promise to St. Faustina, “I will protect the cities and homes in which The Divine Mercy Image is found; I will protect the persons who will venerate [honor] this Image. The only refuge will be trust in My Mercy.” Post these images in different parts of the town, too, if you can, or at least on your property for spiritual protection, besides following carefully the guidelines of science and civil authorities such as isolating, social distancing, etc.

All the pious practices I mentioned above are acts of faith. The Lord looks upon our faith and sees our hearts. Please make every effort to remain in a state of grace. Join us for the Holy Mass, Chaplet of Divine Mercy, Holy Rosary, Adoration, Benediction, and Stations of the Cross. Everything is live-streamed from St. Clare Chapel. All Holy Week services will also be live-streamed. Go to our parish website at: stfrancisbend.org to get the schedule and to join the live-stream. Make sure to turn up the volume on your computer/TV to hear well. With the help of the Lord, we can overcome every evil.

The LORD is my strength and my shield; I trust in him, and he helps me....

The LORD is the strength of his people, a fortress of salvation for his anointed ones (Ps 28:7-8).

Yours in Christ,

Fr. Jose Thomas Mudakodiyil