

St. Aloysius Catholic Church



Meriden, Kansas 66512 785-484-3312

Dear Parishioners,

With 2020 behind us I think we are all looking for better days ahead. The threat of COVID-19 and the toxic political environment cause much concern and anxiety. I don't think many of us ever anticipated that what we are seeing in our country would be a reality in our own time. But unfortunately, it is.

Yet in the midst of all this we are called to be people of faith and of hope. Human institutions and human beings will fail us, but God's love is eternal. We are challenged to take proper safety procedures but also overcome undue anxiety and worry. Unfortunately, many people today are living in fear rather than in the peace that God wants to share with us. Three hundred and sixty-five times the Bible reminds us in one way or another to not be afraid. God's love is with us and nothing can separate us from His love. Romans 8:38-39.

In the midst of troubling times, we need to reaffirm our faith and move forward with confidence. I am impressed with the number of people coming together for Mass both on weekends and weekdays. With the observance of proper safety procedures (masks, physical distancing, etc.), we gather as a community in union with Christ in prayer. It is great seeing families coming together for the Eucharist. I encourage those who are able to attend Mass to do so.

Of course, those with underlying health issues or other susceptibility to illness should not be coming to Mass during these times. Remain at home and join us in prayer. Also, many may not feel free to come because of responsibility to others who may be vulnerable. Thank goodness we have the technology for live-streaming.

Even if we cannot personally attend Mass, we are still called to keep Sunday holy as the Lord's Day. This includes joining in the Mass personally or through live-stream, spending time with family, reaching out to the isolated, taking time for prayer and spiritual reading, refraining from unnecessary work and shopping.

These are challenging times, but not ones in which our faith is weakened, but rather strengthened. We need to pray for all those affected by the virus or other illness; we need to pray for our nation during these perilous times; we need to pray for each other that we may continue to be a community united in prayer and in service. God's blessings during this New Year!

Father Barnabas Eichor ofm.Cap