



# St. Cecilia Catholic Church

2159 Highway 195  
Jasper, AL 35503-6235  
205-384-4800

[www.StCeciliaJasper.com](http://www.StCeciliaJasper.com)

Dear Parishioners,

The COVID-19 virus has brought significant changes to our nation, our community, our Church, and to our parish. To be unable to gather as a parish community to celebrate mass especially during the most Holy Season of Lent is truly unprecedented.

What we fear, more than COVID-19, is that we will forget who we are and to whom we belong. As a parish we need to take preventive measures but also commit ourselves to prayer and trust. We need to rely on the health professionals for advice but we also need to entrust our lives to Jesus. We need to take full advantage of the resources we have been given and follow the best-practices of those who can give helpful and health-giving advice. But then we need to step back, stay centered, calm ourselves, and remember, and remind each other, that we belong to Jesus who promised to always be with us.

Know that we are praying for you, our parish, our Church, our community, and our nation. We are praying for our leaders and for those who will make decisions throughout the world. So as we pray for each other, let us pray that the Holy Spirit will let us feel his love and presence among us. Let us pray that we will feel his protection as his people, as his Church. Let us pray and not be afraid.

St. Paul the apostle says it well in Philippians 4:6-7: "Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your request be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

If you are in need of something or know someone who is, please contact the parish for help. Mary will be checking voice mail and on-line for messages. Please follow the professionals' advice and stay well. Know that you are all in our prayers.

## **HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE**

Live-streamed on  
[www.BHMDiocese.org](http://www.BHMDiocese.org)

Mass of the Lord's Supper  
(Holy Thursday)  
April 9th at 7:00 pm

Liturgy of the Lord's Passion  
(Good Friday)  
April 10th at 3:00 pm

Great Vigil of Easter  
(Holy Saturday Night)  
April 11th at 8:00 pm



# Prayer for the Lenten Season

God, our loving Father, send your Holy Spirit upon us this Lenten Season to awaken in us an awareness of your divine presence in our lives, guiding us to holiness of life.

Help us to avoid anything that would not please you or bring you greater honor and glory.

Separate us from the power of Satan and all forces of evil within and without us.

Eradicate every form of sin and evil from us by the power of your grace that comes to us through the Passion and Death of Jesus.

Lead us, by your holy Spirit to Holy Week and Easter, renewed as faithful disciples of your Divine Son, our Lord Jesus Christ; and make us joyful messengers and missionaries of your holy Gospel.

Through Christ our Lord.

Amen.

## Parish Office

The parish office is closed for now but we are keeping a check on our voicemail and e-mail. Please communicate with us by phone or e-mail so that we can all work together to end this crisis.

**205-300-1259**

**secretary@stcecilias.net**

# UPDATE

A lot of information has been received from the diocese these last weeks. You may have heard most of it, but in summary:

The new bishop has been appointed. Bishop Steven Raica will be installed June 23, 2020. Until then Bishop Baker had been appointed Apostolic Administrator.

The suspension of all parish activities has been extended to at least April 18, 2020 at which time it will be further evaluated. This suspension includes public celebrations of the Chrism Mass, Palm Sunday, Holy Week, and Easter Sunday.

New Holy Oils will be made available as soon as possible. Current Holy Oils are valid and there is no shortage for emergency sacramental use.

RCIA catechumenal rites and other sacraments including Confirmation will be entirely postponed until the public celebration of mass is restored and there can be one common public celebration. The bishop suggests the Solemnity of Pentecost (May 31) would be a most appropriate occasion if the suspension is lifted by that time.

Bishop Baker has suspended all parish religious education classes for the remainder of the 2019-2020 program year. This suspension includes Parish School of Religion (PSR), Confraternity of Christian Doctrine (CCD), First Communion Preparation classes, all Confirmation Preparation classes, all youth and young adult ministry programs, adult faith formation programs, campus ministry programs, and all other catechetical programs. See back page for home resources.

# SPIRITUAL COMMUNION

For these times when you cannot attend mass physically and receive the Lord in Holy Communion, prayers such as this one, composed by St. Alphonsus Liguori in the 18th century may help:

**My Jesus, I believe that you are present in the most Blessed Sacrament. I love you above all things and I desire to receive you into my soul. Since I cannot now receive you sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart. I embrace you as if you were already there, and unite myself wholly to you. Never permit me to be separated from you. Amen.**

No matter what your day is like, Jesus can help make it better, or at least more bearable, if you ask him for his help and guidance. You can reach out to him by making a Spiritual Communion in prayer. St. Thomas Aquinas once defined a Spiritual Communion as "an ardent desire to receive Jesus in the Most Holy Sacrament in Communion at mass and in lovingly embracing him as if we had actually received him."

# How You Can Support St. Cecilia During this Crisis

In response to government directives to help combat the COVID-19 pandemic, churches nationwide are temporarily closing their doors to physical gatherings. This inability to attend mass at normal parish services has meant the substantial curtailment of weekly offerings and that has negatively impacted our resources.

Unfortunately the ordinary parish expenses of maintaining our infrastructure do not change regardless of attendance. As in your household, the monthly bills still must be paid.

We thank the few who have found ways to continue their weekly offerings. But we really need to ask all of our parishioners to contribute during this critical time.

There are several ways you can contribute:

#### US MAIL:

Just mail your contribution and envelopes to us at:  
St. Cecilia Catholic Church  
2159 Highway 195  
Jasper, AL 35503-6235

#### BILL PAY SERVICE:

Your bank should offer this service to you at no charge

#### PARISHSOFT GIVING:

A new electronic giving service (please see below to enroll)

### PARISHSOFT GIVING

*ParishSoft Giving* is a new way to make all of your contributions to St. Cecilia Catholic Church automatically from your checking account or credit card by using any device like your desktop, laptop, tablet, or smart phone.

We ask that you consider joining many of your fellow parishioners in making your gifts to us with the new **Parish Soft Giving** option.

Please enroll now at:

<https://giving.parishsoft.com/app/giving/stceciliajasper>



HOW TO SUPPORT ST. FRANCIS XAVIER DURING THIS CRISIS

wheroin's mailbox

## HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE

Live-streamed on  
[www.sfxbirmingham.com/watch-mass](http://www.sfxbirmingham.com/watch-mass)

Mass of the Lord's Supper  
(Holy Thursday)  
April 9th  
Mass at 5:00 pm

Liturgy of the Lord's Passion  
(Good Friday)  
April 10th  
Stations at 2:00 pm  
Passion & Veneration at 3:00 pm

Great Vigil of Easter  
(Holy Saturday Night)  
April 11th  
Vigil at 7:30 pm

Resurrection of the Lord  
(Easter Sunday)  
April 12th  
Easter Mass at 9:00 am

*Online Services  
available all week*

## Daily Mass

[www.wordonfire.org/daily-mass](http://www.wordonfire.org/daily-mass)

English:

<http://catholicv.org/masses/notre-dame-mass>

Spanish:

<https://vimeo.com/sanfernandocathedral>

# RESOURCES

Some on-line sources may be of some help during this time of self-isolation and social distancing: {use Ctrl+Click to follow link or cut and paste in your browser}

## Virtual Tour of the Vatican Museum:

<http://www.museivaticani.va/content/museivaticani/en/collezioni/musei/tour-virtuali-lenco.1.html>

## Coronavirus:

English:\_\_\_

<http://products.pastoral.center/pc/pc105/1/download-covi/Coronavirus%20for%20Parents.pdf>

## Spanish:

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