

Dear Saint Michael Parishioners,

I hope you continue to do well. While it seems like an eternity, we are now only a week into our response to the COVID-19 virus. All things being considered, people have done a splendid job of adapting on-the-fly. Once again, please accept my sincerest and profound thanks for all of your words of encouragement, support, prayer, and offers of help.

Today's developments include the following:

1. Offers of help for the sick, elderly, and quarantined continue to pour in from parishioners. Thank you! I am truly edified. We are currently matching parishioners.
2. Just a reminder, there will be no public Masses—daily and weekend—until further notice.
3. Sunday Mass will be live streamed on Facebook Saturday, March 21, beginning at 5:00 P.M. and Sunday Mass, March 22, at 9:30 A.M., then posted to our website <https://www.stmichaellincoln.org/>.
4. Both Father Schwenka and I will hear confessions Saturday, March 21, from 4:00 to 5:00 P.M. and on Sunday from 8:00 – 9:15 A.M. Confessions will be heard in the foyer of the bell tower and the foyer of the commons area. Both allow anonymity. Ushers will be available to help direct parishioners. I am asking parishioners to please form a line with their cars and come to the curbside in front of the parish. In an effort to keep groups to ten or less, perhaps have an individual or family in a car come up for confession, go to one of the designated confessionals, and when they finish, return to their car, depart, and the occupant(s) of the next car pull up and repeat the routine. Father Schwenka and/or I will be there as long as there is a need, so do not worry about schedules. Also, hand sanitizer will be available for penitents at both stations.
5. The Rosary, the Chaplet of Divine Mercy, and Stations of the Cross have been recorded and will be available to parishioners on Facebook and our website.
6. **I need your help.** Since public Masses have been suspended for the duration, we have no regular weekend collections. However, Saint Michael parish has ongoing, continued financial obligations—utilities, salaries, insurance, supplies, etc. Half of our parish support income comes through the Sunday collection in cash and checks. I know that these are trying times for all of us, including financial. Would you consider doing one of two things?
 - a. Send your envelopes and/or donations to:
Saint Michael Catholic Church
9101 S. 78th St.
Lincoln, NE 68516
 - b. Sign up for online giving. Online giving is a convenient option to contribute to support the mission of St. Michael. Because we have online giving already established, your vital offertory support can still happen regardless of where you are. Click here: <https://www.stmichaellincoln.org/donate.html>
7. Archbishop George J. Lucas of the Archdiocese of Omaha and current Apostolic Administrator for the Diocese of Lincoln and Bishop Joseph G. Hanefeldt of the Diocese of Grand Island will pray a state-wide Rosary in response to the novel coronavirus

pandemic, to take place Wednesday, March 25, at 6:00 P.M., CST. Please join them and Fr. Schwenka, Deacon Sasse, and me in praying the Rosary for the containment and mitigation of the coronavirus. It will also be broadcast on Spirit Catholic Radio at 102.7 F.M. or on Spirit Catholic Radio's free smartphone app.

8. Lastly, this pandemic may have positive, unforeseen side effects. With less distractions and competition for family time, families can take advantage of spending excellent, quality time together in a variety of activities, most especially prayer. I strongly encourage you to establish family prayer time and find creative, original ways of studying and learning your faith. **Nunc Coepi!** Let's begin again. Seize the moment.
9. Again, please know of the closeness that Fr. Schwenka, Deacon Sasse, and I have for all of you. I look forward to when we can be back together.

With love and prayers,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Fr. Kenneth Borowiak". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Fr. Kenneth Borowiak