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Welcome *home*.

Dear Christ the Redeemer Parishioners,

Weekly Update for February 10, 2021

Ash Wednesday: Ash Wednesday will be celebrated on February 17. Mass with the distribution of ashes at 7:30a, 12:05p, and 5:30p. Confession will be offered from 8a until 5p except for Mass time at noon. I will have ashes available during confession for those who cannot make the usual Mass time. Our annual collection for the needy will be held at all Masses on Ash Wednesday. Please prayerfully consider making a donation either when attending Mass or through our online giving portal. These funds are used at Christ the Redeemer.

Preparing for Lent: For Lent this year, I would like us to make use of *The Search* from Formed.org. Each week you will have access to a new video. Each Wednesday, I host a Mercy Night both in person and online. These nights will coincide with the content of *The Search*. Our Sunday Masses will focus on deeper participation in the Liturgy. Of course, we will have lots of time for the sacrament of Reconciliation that our parish is known for. ctr-htdiocese.org/formed

The Search: What is this journey in between the event we call “birth” and the one we call “death”? Is the journey taking you somewhere, or are you leading yourself to some kind of destination – a destination that could extend beyond your last breath? What do you want from your life during the in between? The questions are there. And, the answers are too.

CRS Rice Bowl: Each year Catholic Relief Services collects funds to feed people in need across the world through their *Rice Bowl* program. Rice Bowls are available for pick-up in the Church.

Easter Egg Project: Our 2021 Lenten Easter Egg project will run from February 17 - March 21. We are collecting resources to help our home bound and the elderly. Please take an egg next weekend to help our neighbors.

Way of the Cross: Beginning on the Friday following Ash Wednesday, we will celebrate the Stations of the Cross at 5:30p in our church. The booklets for the way of the cross will be individually wrapped and located on the offertory table by the main doors to the Church. If you intend to celebrate the stations with us this season, please take one and keep it with you for the season. Once our parishioners are served additional books can be purchased for \$5.

Come Spend an Hour with the Lord: There is an open hour for adoration on Friday at 2 PM. If you have ever considered regularly spending some time with the Lord now is a great time to

start. Please call Sara Oubre or JoAnna LeBeouf if you would like to commit to a slot. Sara: 985.446.8662 [H], 985.859.4874 [C], or 985.447.9363. JoAnna: 985.209.8181

Covid 19 Precautions: If you are ill, please remain at home to recover quickly and restrict the spread of infections. Bishop Fabre and I ask that everyone wear a facemask that covers their mouth and nose for the whole time that you are on our campus. I ask you to keep visiting to a minimum with facemasks, at least six feet apart, and outside the buildings when possible. We have hand sanitizer and facemasks at our entrances for your convenience. When Mass is over, I am asking everyone to make their way all the way out of the building before stopping.

Sunday Obligation: The obligation to attend Mass on Sunday remains lifted. If you cannot or choose not to attend Sunday Mass, you will not be sinning. There is no shame in choosing not to attend Mass if you are vulnerable, are caring for someone who is, are caring for young children, are concerned about getting sick, or for any other reason. Please take this time to sanctify your week in some other fashion until life returns to normal.

Prayer to St. Joseph: O, St. Joseph, whose protection is so great, so strong, so prompt before the throne of God, I place in you all my interests and desires. O, St. Joseph, do assist me by your powerful intercession, and obtain for me from your divine son all spiritual blessings, through Jesus Christ, our Lord. So that, having engaged here below your heavenly power, I may offer my thanksgiving and homage to the most loving of Fathers.

Oh, St. Joseph, I never weary of contemplating you, and Jesus asleep in your arms; I dare not approach while he reposes near your heart. Press him in my name and kiss his fine head for me and ask him to return the kiss when I draw my dying breath. Saint Joseph, patron of departing souls, pray for me. Amen. [*Oratio* p. 88]

Prayer for Priestly Vocations: O Jesus, our compassionate High Priest, we ask you to raise up among our Christian communities abundant and holy vocations to the priesthood. Grant to the men whom you are calling to this holy service the grace to stay close to your Sacred Heart. Aid them in their commitment to prayer and grant them the grace to hear your voice more clearly each day. Give them the humility and the charity to respond to your invitation in discerning this vocation. May they encounter you close to them in every step of their journey, being reminded that they are never without you and your guidance. We ask this in your name, Jesus. Mary, Mother of Priests, pray for us.

Thank you,
Fr. Alex Gaudet