

Dear fellow parishioners,

As many of you have been aware our Pastor, Fr. Gene, has had ongoing issues with his mobility. Additionally, recently he has also developed issues with breathing difficulties and lack of appetite. Monday, April 5, the decision was made to have Fr. Gene evaluated at the hospital. He is currently in a St. Louis area hospital receiving treatment for an elevated CO2 level and rapid heartrate.

Fortunately many of the tests are coming out well, including the COVID test which was negative. It is unknown at this time how long he will require hospitalization. It is also unknown what type of therapy he will require when discharged from the hospital.

He is unable to receive visitors at the hospital due to COVID regulations. The most important thing we all can do at this time is to keep Fr. Gene and our parish in prayer. If you would like to send a card to Fr. Gene, please send it to the parish office or drop it in the collection and we will make sure he receives it.

We are working with the diocese to try to secure a priest for our weekend Masses and the Wednesday morning Mass. However, as you can imagine, this is a difficult task with the shortage of priests. We may be required to perform some Celebrations in the Absence of a Priest. Please continue to call the Rectory during business hours if you wish to attend Mass, as we are still required to do this for contact tracing.

This is certainly going to be a challenging time for our parish. However, I know from what we have accomplished in the past that we will pull together and make it through. If you have any questions about anything, please call the parish office at 826-2444 or myself at 618-708-1381. Frankly we have more questions than answers right now but we will do our best to accommodate you.

Thank you for your cooperation and understanding. I will continue to provide updates as I receive them. Again, your prayers are so needed and appreciated.

Brian Niermann

Parish Council President