



# SAINT ALPHONSUS CATHOLIC CHURCH

Covington, Tennessee

## AVE MARIA CATHOLIC CHURCH

Ripley, Tennessee

*Rev. Robert Ballman, Pastor*

[office@stalphonsuscovington.org](mailto:office@stalphonsuscovington.org)

**Dec 20, 2020**

**The Fourth Sunday of Advent**

**VIOLET**

### MASS SCHEDULE

#### SAINT ALPHONSUS

**Saturday Vigil** 4:30 pm

**Sunday** 10:30 am

#### AVE MARIA

**Sunday** 8:30am

#### SAINT ALPHONSUS Daily

**Monday** 12:00 pm

**Tuesday** 12:00 pm

**Wednesday** 12:00 pm

**Friday** 8:30 am

**Saturday** 8:30 am

### SACRAMENTS

#### SAINT ALPHONSUS

##### Confession

**Saturday** 4:00 pm

**Sunday** 10:00 am

#### AVE MARIA

**Sunday** 8:00 am

or by appointment

Baptism or Marriage preparation

Call for appointment

### DEVOTIONS

#### SAINT ALPHONSUS

##### Eucharistic Adoration

**First Friday and First Saturday of each month following 8:30 am Mass**

#### Rosary

**First Saturday** 8:00 am

**Sunday morning** 10:05 am

### ST. ALPHONSUS & AVE MARIA MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of St. Alphonsus & Ave Maria Parishes is to proclaim and share the Gospel of Jesus Christ and His Church through liturgy, education, community service, social events, and witness for Christ who has blessed our lives in the larger community of Tipton & Lauderdale Counties and beyond. Our parish life is centered on the Eucharist during which we celebrate, in joy, the presence of the Risen Lord among us.

### What's Happening this Week!

#### Saturday, Dec 19

4:30 pm Vigil Mass

#### Sunday, Dec 20

8:30 am Mass - Ave Maria

8:45 am No PRE

10:05 am Rosary - St. Alphonsus

10:30 am Mass

#### Monday, Dec 21

6:00 pm St. Augustine Bible Study

#### Tuesday, Dec 22

10:00 am Friends of the Poor

11:30 am Rosary

6:00 pm No RCIA

#### Wednesday, Dec 23

10:15 am Legion of Mary

11:30 am Rosary

#### Thursday, Dec 24 Christmas Eve

4:10 pm Christmas music

4:30 pm Vigil Mass St. Alphonsus

6:10 pm Christmas music

6:30 pm Vigil Mass St. Alphonsus

11:40 pm Christmas music

#### Friday, December 25, 2020 Christmas Day

Midnight Christmas Mass St. Alphonsus

10:00 am Christmas Mass at Ave Maria

#### SAINT ALPHONSUS

1225 Highway 51 South (at Tatlock) • Covington, Tennessee

Mailing Address • PO Box 430 • Covington, Tennessee 38019

Parish Office 901.476.8140 • FAX 901.476.9650 • Rectory 901.501.6105

#### AVE MARIA

(just South of Highway 19 junction)

664 S. Washington St. (SR 209) • Ripley, Tennessee



[www.stalphonsuscovington.org](http://www.stalphonsuscovington.org)



## Mass Intentions



Saturday	12/19	4:30 pm	+Thomas Crofton by Wellbrock Family
Sunday	12/20	8:30 am	For the Parishioners of Ave Maria
Sunday	12/20	10:30 am	For the Parishioners of St. Alphonsus
Monday	12/21	12:00 pm	For Peter Burkhardt by Sandy Burkhardt
Tuesday	12/22	12:00 pm	For Jerome Teer B-Day by Steve & Beth Teer
Wednesday	12/23	12:00 pm	+Bro Knight Lloyd J. Haynes by K of C
Friday	12/25	8:30 am	XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX
Saturday	12/26	8:30 am	

### Promises & Blessings

#### Scripture verses

December 19th

For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.

-Ephesians 2:10

December 20th

Mercy, peace and love be yours in abundance.

-Jude 1:2



### December Birthdays

Cynthia Gray 12/19

Tammy Clowes 12/24

Lana Harbin 12/25

### Readings for Dec 21 – Dec 27

Monday-St. Peter Canisius, Priest, DOC

Sg 2:8-14 Ps 33:2-3, 11-12, 20-21 Lk 1:39-45

Tuesday

1 Sm 1:24-28 (Ps) 1 Sm 2:1, 4-7, 8abcd Lk 1:46-56

Wednesday-St. John of Kanty, Priest

Mal 3:1-4, 23-24 Ps 25:4bc-5ab, 8-10, 14 Lk 1:57-66

Thursday-Vigil of The Nativity of the Lord

2 Sm 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16 Ps 89:2-5, 27, 29

Lk 1:67-79

Friday-The Nativity of the Lord

Is 9:1-6 Ps 96:1-3, 11-13 Lk 2:1-14

Saturday-St. Stephen, The First Martyr

Acts 6:8-10; 7:54-59 Ps 31:3cd-4, 6-8b, 16bc, 17

Mt 10:17-22

Sunday

Sir 3:2-6, 12-14 Ps 128:1-5 Lk 2:22-40

Consider offering or attending Mass, or visiting a church to pray before the Blessed Sacrament for yourself or a loved one's birthday, thanking God *for the gift of family and life.*

The Parish Office will be closed

December 21, 2019 thru January 3, 2019

the office will open on Monday, January 4

*I wish you and your families a very Merry Christmas  
and a Wonderful & Safe New year.*

Please see the insert for the  
Holiday Schedule



**Amazing Opportunity:** In honor of the recent Beatification of Blessed Father Michael J. McGivney, founder of the Knights of Columbus, the K of C are offering *free online membership* (\$30 value) to all eligible Catholic men. To qualify, you must be at least eighteen years old, baptized and a practicing Catholic. Join at [www.kofc.org/joinus](http://www.kofc.org/joinus) and use the discount code: **MCGIVNEY2020**. Offer ends December 31, 2020. The Knights of Columbus were founded in 1882 in New Haven, Connecticut and is a family, fraternal service organization dedicated to lives of charity, unity, and fraternity. Direct any questions to: [Membership@kofc-tn.org](mailto:Membership@kofc-tn.org).

### Prayer for the sick and those in need:

Father of goodness and love, hear our prayers for the sick members of our community and for all who are in need. Amid mental and physical suffering may they find consolation in your healing presence. Show your mercy as you close wounds, cure illness, make broken bodies whole and free downcast spirits. May these special people find lasting health and deliverance, and so join us in thanking you for all your gifts. We ask this through the Lord Jesus who healed those who believed. Amen.

### Please Pray

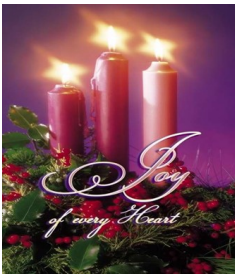


### Our Ill Priests

Fr. John Hourican	Fr. Bryan Timby
Fr. Jolly Sebastian	Fr. Robert Ponticello

### Our Parishioners

Jerry Bryant	Stan Matras
Peter Burkhardt	Maria McConnell
Pat Butner	Christina Miller
Bill Ciesiolka	Jerry & Rose Mills
Lottie Crofton	David Moore
Kay & Gene Cross	Eleanor Nunn
Dixie Duncan	Elaine Perry
Derek Durham	Ginger Poteete
John Folden	Fernando Romero
Floanne Garrett	Lynda Rogers
Evan Grueling	Holly Schaefer
Jack & Peggy Haywood	Barbara Schneider
Lois Hayden	Joan Smith
Pat Haynes	Frank Stephens
Beverly Jiminez	Elizabeth Sullivan
Lenny Lind	Irma Wilson de Roze



“O Almighty God, gracious provider and giver of life, we anxiously await the celebration of your birth. Like the people of long ago, our ancestors in faith, we, too, are in need of light, in need of direc-

tion, in need of your Word, to show us the way. Our busy lives and the consumerism that surrounds us make it difficult to recognize your kingdom and to hear your voice. Help us Lord, to focus on you. We pray that you hear our prayer in the name of Jesus. Amen.” -*The Catholic Company*

### Our Loved Ones


Joan Baltz	Phillis King
James & Robin Barnett	Judy Kovach
William Barrett	Emile Latour
Betty Jo Bennet	Cindy Lavelli
Joe Bergen	Jacob LeFils
Mary Bixler	Dietmar Linden
Virginia Bowden	Susana Linden
Darlene Brooks	Evelyn Lynn
Dave Buda	Joe Marking
Joe Bynum	Debbie Marshall
Christina Cahaly	Linda Medford
Angela Canady	Beth McNeill
Patrick Christy	Danny Miller
Bella Crosby	Ronnie Nipp
Liz Crosslin	Sandra Pellegren
Bobbie Jean Crouse	Beverly Pratt
Michael Ellis	Joan Robertson
Rob Engel	Mary Schaefer
Karri Flannigan	Cynthia Simmons
Melissa Flores	Carmen Sosa
Ella Forkum	Andrea Stafford
Kathy & Ronda Gentry	Ray & Yelba Stevenson
Elizabeth Guntert	Sam Stitt
Robert E. Harbin	Jay St. John
James Phillip Harbin	Toni Swindell
Kay Hernandez	Jennifer Tidwell
Lisa Hogan	Peter Vandervan
Betty Hopper	Brad & Paige Warmath
Luanne Jergens	Donna Williams
Christie Johnson	Steve Williams
Ester Jones	Coila Winters
Mode Jones	Earl Yeomans

Gracious God, inspire me this Advent to make straight my ways so that you can come to me and our world.

### December Prayer Intention of Pope Francis

#### For a life of prayer

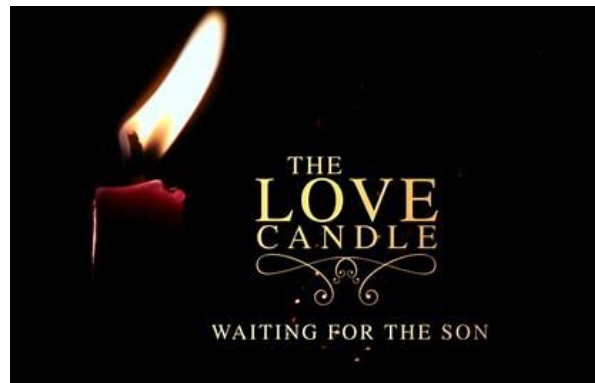
We pray that our personal relationship with Jesus Christ be nourished by the Word of God and a life of prayer.

Liturgical Ministers			
			
	Lectors	Servers	Sacristans
Dec 19	P. Williams	B. Ciesiolka	M. Griffis
4:30 pm		K. Sass	
Dec 20	J. Terry	E. Teer	J. Buda
10:30 am		J. Walker	
Dec 26			
4:30 pm			
Dec 27			
10:30 am			

Attendance Last Week				
Dec 13	St. Alphonsus		Ave Maria	
	Adult	Children	Adult	Children
4:30 pm	24	0		
8:30 Mass			24	2
10:30 Mass	59	19		

**Sunday 2nd Collection: Capital**

Dec 13, 2020	Saint Alphonsus	Ave Maria	Saint Alphonsus 2019	Ave Maria 2019
Budget	\$ 2,250.00	\$ 365.00	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 365.00
Regular	\$ 5,818.00	\$ 230.00	\$ 1,984.00	\$ 335.00
YTD DEFICIT (Jul-Dec)24 wks.	\$ 1,939.00	\$ 3,844.00		
Friends of the Poor	\$ 160.00	\$	\$	\$



***“O God of hosts, restore us; light up your face and we shall be saved” (Ps 80:8).***

We're now entering the homestretch of Advent, heading for the goal, the celebration of the Lord's birth. Jesus has come in history as a tiny babe in a manger. He does come in mystery, prayer, word, sacrament, and many small daily wonders. And he will come in glory at the end of time to judge the living and the dead. Our psalm response this Sunday is, "Lord, make us turn to you, let us see your face, and we shall be saved." God present in our midst—that is the gift that tops all gifts in this season and always!

This week, let our prayer be simply a yearning for God. The decorations will be up. The cookies will be baked. Presents will be under the tree. Friends and family will gather. We will be prepared. Now what we must do is wait. Wait on the Lord! Anticipate that wonderful moment when we will once more fall on our knees and sing with the angels. . . . Wait for it. . . .

*“Glory to God in the highest and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests” (Lk 2:14).*

### A Prayer for Love

Holy Father, thank you for the gift of your Son, Jesus Christ, your greatest gift of love to your people. Fill my heart with such love, opening my heart to accept your great love for me. Overflow my heart with your love, so I may pour it out into the world. Help me to love others as you've loved me – even those who aren't so easy to love. For following you means loving others as you love me. Lord, thank you for your great gift of Jesus as we celebrate Christmas. May I ever walk in your love and show the world I am your disciple by the love I show to others, keeping Jesus, your Son, close in my heart. Amen.

### John 13:34-35 (NIV)

*“A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another.”*



	<b>Christmas Flowers Memorials</b>	
<b>St. Alphonsus</b>		<b>Ave Maria</b>
<b>In Memory/Honor of:</b>		<b>In Memory/Honor of:</b>
<b>Betty Gail Sullivan</b>	<b>Mrs. Jane Wagman</b>	<b>Victoria Pavletic</b>
<b>Josh Drew Oliver</b>	<b>Marie Nguyen</b>	<b>Joseph Pavletic</b>
<b>Ruth Sullivan</b>	<b>Jerry Smith</b>	<b>Mildred Nipp</b>
<b>C H Sullivan, Jr.</b>	<b>Carol &amp; Dan Buda</b>	<b>Travis Nipp</b>
<b>Ellis M. Barrett</b>	<b>Dorothy &amp; Jim Burke</b>	<b>Mr. &amp; Mrs. William F Bergmann</b>
<b>William R. Perry</b>	<b>Danielle Buda Gangi</b>	<b>Mr. &amp; Mrs. George M Hallock</b>
<b>Kathrine Podeville</b>	<b>Sr. Doris Blum</b>	<b>Mr. &amp; Mrs. Christopher Hallock</b>
<b>Wallace A. Choquette</b>	<b>Ken Duncan</b>	<b>John R. Dunbar, Jr.</b>
<b>Wesyl &amp; Anna Budaj</b>	<b>Helen Griffis</b>	<b>Stanley &amp; Lottie Matras</b>
<b>Vicky Dziadkowicz</b>	<b>Martha Donaghue</b>	<b>Steve &amp; Lottie Savicz</b>
<b>Stephie Kopick</b>	<b>Ann Wozniak</b>	
<b>Christine Dziadkowicz</b>	<b>Floyd McGaha</b>	
<b>Mr. &amp; Mrs. Sam Catalani</b>	<b>James Haynes</b>	
<b>Mr. &amp; Mrs. Antonio Lopez</b>	<b>Wanda Haynes</b>	
<b>Mr. James Vinecki</b>		

### Holy Days of Obligation

Holy days of obligation are feast days on which Catholics are required to attend Mass and to avoid (to the extent that they are able) servile work. The observance of Holy Days of Obligation is part of the Sunday duty.

**The *Catechism of the Catholic Church*** explains holy days of obligation this way:

On Sundays and **other holy days of obligation**, the faithful are to refrain from engaging in work or activities that hinder the worship owed to God, the joy proper to the Lord's Day, the performance of the works of mercy, and the appropriate relaxation of mind and body.

Family needs or important social service can legitimately excuse from the obligation of Sunday rest.

The faithful should see to it that legitimate excuses do not lead to habits prejudicial to religion, family life, and health [CCC 2185].

The Code of Canon Law spells out when the holy days of obligation are on the Church's universal calendar:

Can. 1246 §1. Sunday, on which by apostolic tradition the paschal mystery is celebrated, must be observed in the universal Church as the primordial holy day of obligation.

St. Alphonsus

In Memory/Honor of

Betty Gail Sullivan

Josh Drew Oliver

Ruth Sullivan

C H Sullivan, Jr.

Ellis M. Barrett

William R. Perry

Kathrine Podeville

Wallace A. Choquette

Wesyl & Anna Budaj

Vicky Dziadkowicz

Stephie Kopick

Christine Dziadkowicz

Mr. & Mrs. Sam Catalani

Ave Maria

In Memory/Honor of

Victoria Pavletic

Joseph Pavletic

Mildred Nipp

Travis Nipp

Mr. & Mrs. William F Bergmann

Mr. & Mrs. George M Hallock

Mr. & Mrs. Christopher Hallock

John R. Dunbar, Jr.

Stanley & Lottie Matras

Steve & Lottie Savicz

# 2020 Holiday Mass Schedule

## **The Nativity of the Lord**

**Thursday, December 24<sup>th</sup>**

Christmas Music      20 minutes before Mass

Vigil Mass	St Alphonsus	4:30 pm
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Christmas Music      20 minutes before Mass

Vigil Mass	St Alphonsus	6:30 pm
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**Friday, December 25<sup>th</sup>**

Christmas Music      20 minutes before Mass

Midnight Mass	St Alphonsus	12:00 am
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Christmas Mass	Ave Maria	10:00 am
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**Jan 1<sup>st</sup>, Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God**

New Year's Eve Vigil	St Alphonsus	4:30 pm
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New Year's Day	Ave Maria	8:30 am
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New Year's Day	St Alphonsus	10:00 am
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OFFICE OF THE BISHOP  
DIOCESE OF MEMPHIS

5825 SHELBY OAKS DRIVE  
MEMPHIS, TN 38134 901-373-1200

***Advent and Christmas and the months ahead: the pandemic, and our response in faith***

The expected COVID-19 *Thanksgiving weekend surge* is being felt in Memphis and Jackson and in many of the 21 counties of west Tennessee that comprise our Diocese of Memphis. Some of our hospitals are nearing their limit on ICU and quarantine beds for infected patients. And, a *Christmas surge* of this novel coronavirus will, in all likelihood, be seen and felt by front – line medical staff and by our families in the New Year. It appears that the great majority of our people will be able to take the vaccine shot....in the spring or early summer. Granting this time-line, it appears that this death-dealing pandemic will be with us for many months to come.

Though all of us are fatigued by the many stresses experienced since March, we must continue to walk by faith. We must continue the ongoing mission of Christ's Church, even with this fatigue, even in these difficult days. As missionary disciples of the Risen Lord, we are to proclaim His Way of Life, in and through the way we live out His Golden Rule (Lv. 19.18; Luke 10. 25-37; Luke 6. 31; Matthew 7. 12; 25. 31-46). This is why ***all of us should wear our masks when in public (around anyone) and keep our physical distance between one another and wash and sanitize our hands frequently!***

Recognizing the spiking of infection in many of our counties and the understandable fear that many of our people have of this new virus, please know the following:

**FIRST**, as of today, by this DECREE, I offer a **DISPENSATION** from the obligation to attend the celebration of holy Mass on Sundays and on Holy Days of obligation, to all the faithful in the 21 counties that make up the Catholic Diocese of Memphis. This DISPENSATION from the "Sunday obligation" will remain in effect until I judge it safe to call all to join me again for public worship.

Our Pastors will continue their spiritual and corporal works of mercy. Our priests will continue to offer holy Mass and stream the celebration of holy Mass. **We are not closing our parishes;** but we are to follow the guidelines that follow, for the health of all, for the common good of all.

Yes, "on Sundays and other holy days of obligation, the faithful are obliged to participate at Mass (canon 1247 of the Church's Canon Law)". This "obligation" is both a joy and a discipline for us Catholics, to gather together as members of the Body of Christ, proclaiming the Presence of the Lord and accepting our commission, as proclaimers of His Victory over sin and death. And, with God's help, we will again "fill up the pews" in praise and thanksgiving, once this pandemic is controlled through the sciences and through our compassionate following of safeguards. We need to support the faith of one another during these difficult days.



**SECOND:** please follow the required instructions and restrictions listed below:

1. The withholding of the *cup of blessing* (chalices for Holy Communion) and the withholding of any physical exchange of peace during Mass continues in effect until further notice.
2. Aside from the different fora of the public celebration of holy Mass, there are to be no gatherings in the parish of more than fifty people in any one classroom or enclosed space, properly distanced, other than the Nave, until further notice. This should not prevent PRE and Catechumenate programs from starting, and we need for these programs of ongoing formation to begin their work. Pastors are to discern which activities of the parish community will continue to take place during this pandemic.
3. In our parishes and missions, social gatherings *after* the celebration of baptisms, weddings, funerals, and *quinceañeras* should not take place. Each Pastor will offer guidance to the people of the parish.
4. Choirs may begin to assist our worship during holy Mass, with proper distancing and the use of masks.
5. Each Pastor and Administrator, being particularly attentive to the health bulletins issued from state, city, and county officials, is to discern and decide the capacity that the Nave of their worship space should hold, up to a 50% of capacity (with distancing). This may mean that Pastors of large parishes may need to offer additional Masses or additional areas for Mass or both. This is to remain in effect until further notice.
6. All C.D.C. guidelines for personal hygiene are to be followed (hand washing and sanitizing). Facial coverings (masks) must be worn while at the parish or mission, until further notice.
7. The Pastor is to urge all of his parishioners to know that, out of love for their clergy and their neighbor, it is preferable to receive the Eucharist in their hands, until further notice. We urge this, but gently and with sensitivity. The communicant should take off his or her mask just before approaching the cleric or Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion, putting it back on after reception of Holy Communion.
8. All clergy and all that assist them in administering Holy Communion should take every precaution: purifying hands thoroughly before and after offering Holy Communion; wearing a face mask during the Rite of Communion. During holy Mass, the cleric is to wear the mask in the Procession, during the Liturgy of the Word, until the Proclamation of the Gospel begins and during the recessional.

**THIRD:** Since the beginning of the "COVID 19" crisis, the Principals and their assistants of the Catholic schools in the Diocese, in collaboration with their Pastors, have worked "non-stop" to prepare for the opening of our schools. Since the start of this school year, our Principals, teachers and staff have achieved outstanding results within this pandemic environment. They have continued the great work of offering Christ centered Catholic formation for our children and teens. I am so grateful for their dedicated service *and* their leadership. Regarding sports activities at our Catholic schools, our Diocesan website has a listing of which sports activities are available to our children and teens. School web-sites have this information available as well.

As we continue to deal with the various points of crisis in our cities and towns (health, hunger, loss of jobs, situational depression, fear and concern, drug and alcohol abuse, the issues of race relations), please be assured that I will offer additional instructions as they are needed. I ask all Pastors to inform your parishioners of the contents of this Decree.

## **Additional Guidelines for Parishes**

**1. How is the parish to open up the nursery?** Pastors are to work with their volunteer teams to decide if a nursery should be opened, remembering physical distancing and the need for facial coverings. Each Pastor should check with his local health department about their advice regarding the Nursery and the Parents Day Out. Consider encouraging people with small children to keep them at home to the extent practicable. This is why I ask every pastor with a capacity to “stream” parish liturgies to do so, so that all staying at home will be able to join the parish community in prayer.

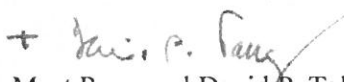
**2. Outdoor Mass and additional Masses.** This seems like the ideal option to choose if it is possible for the parish. Some parishes have large fields that could accommodate quite a large outdoor mass with people physically distanced (and bringing their own lawn chairs). This could be beneficial for parishes with very large numbers of parishioners. And, at larger churches, consider an overflow mass into a gym or family room, either celebrated by another priest or on video with a deacon or EMOHC to bring communion to the faithful in the overflow room at time for communion.

**3. The “collection basket” is not to be passed person to person.** Either have a common bowl that people drop their offering in, or have the ushers with the baskets on poles collect the offering. Also, consider for the time being to try and limit common touching of items. Perhaps temporarily remove missals and hymnals, so multiple people won’t be handling books or missals. Maybe paper song sheets with the lyrics printed on them could be used instead.

**4. Cleaning.** Pastors are to make sure that the restrooms have plenty of soap, paper towels, and there is hand sanitizer. Pews and all the high contact areas should be sanitized between masses. This would likely include door handles, pews, and rails. If cleaning products are made readily available, they could consider asking select parishioner volunteers to help with this wipe down between masses. And, recommend having a cleaning crew conduct a more thorough cleaning during the week.

**5. Ushers-greeters** should continue to offer sanitizer fluids to our people before every holy Mass.

This Decree is given on the 11<sup>th</sup> of December 2020 and takes effect today. I am yours, in the light and love of the Risen Lord,

  
Most Reverend David P. Talley



Very Reverend James Clark, J.V., Chancellor