

St. Ambrose Parish

MARCH 29, 2020
BEEHIVE



The Crucifix of San Marcello Church.

GUIDEPOSTS

1. NO TIME IS WITHOUT ITS GRACE

Christ's death and rising is a grace that should shape every day of a Christian's life, and above all in these days. In this time of trial we are called to seize the grace of showing ourselves, by the power of the Spirit of Christ, to be, like Christ, filled with faith in God's care for us.

2. THIS IS THE LENT OUR FATHER WANTS US TO HAVE

This second guidepost is a sort of corollary to the first. God in Christ is the Lord of history. He's in charge. His providential plan for our salvation and happiness cannot be defeated. If he has permitted us to have to be for a while without our public celebration of the Holy Eucharist and our usual Lenten devotions, his Spirit offers us other means to prepare ourselves for Holy Week and the Paschal Triduum.

3. IT'S STILL ABOUT UNLEASHING THE GOSPEL

Right now all of us, especially pastors and our co-workers, are focused on responding to the coronavirus pandemic. But that doesn't mean our work to "unleash the Gospel" has been abandoned. Quite the contrary. We still must be about evangelization. That's always our mission. This is a providential time for us to witness to our sure confidence in Jesus as Lord of history, to manifest to the world that we face

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GUIDEPOSTS

this challenge with unshakable trust that the Lord will sustain us.

4. NOW IS THE HOUR OF THE DOMESTIC CHURCH

At Synod 16, the Holy Spirit said clearly that the Christian family, as the “domestic church,” has to be at the center of the new evangelization. In these days when our large public gatherings for prayer and catechesis are suspended, the domestic church is all the more clearly “ground zero” for our response. Now it falls squarely on families to make their homes places to hear the Word of God, and to offer him praise, especially in acts of Spiritual Communion and entrustment to the protection of the Blessed Virgin Mary.

5. HOLINESS WORKS WITH SCIENCE

We must resist any idea that there’s some sort of divorce between our cooperating with public health officials to mitigate the spread of the virus and our complete trust in God’s power to protect us. This guidepost is a variation on the axiom that “nature builds on grace.” Our wholehearted cooperation with the civil authorities involves acts of Christian virtue: acts of justice in doing our part to protect the common good, and acts of charity because our motive is love for God and neighbor.

6. ACCOMPANY OUR NEIGHBORS

I’ve “cribbed” this “guidepost” and the one that follows from the pastoral wisdom of Pope Francis. Each of us, especially in our families, faces fears about what the future holds for us as the spread of the virus unfolds. But we’re not alone in this. Some of us will become seriously ill, and undoubtedly there will be fatalities — along with all of the suffering that follows for those with loved ones who become ill. Many of us face the prospect of economic troubles, the loss of jobs, the collapse of businesses, with all the trials these misfortunes entail. We must support one another in this time of trouble, not only with sympathy but with ready acts of practical kindness — that is, works of mercy.

7. TO CARE FOR THOSE ‘ON THE PERIPHERIES’

Here, too, I’m echoing a theme dear to the heart of Pope Francis. The pains caused by the pandemic will fall particularly hard on the poor, the elderly and the chronically ill. We Christians have a particular duty to care for them. One simple but much needed work of mercy will be to stay in touch (by phone?) with the elderly who are quarantined. We should be sure that “social distancing” doesn’t result in losing “spiritual closeness.” Not least should we remember that many of the inconveniences we experience in order to mitigate the spread of the virus are aimed at protecting the vulnerable. With that in mind, it should be easier to be at peace with these inconveniences.

8. GOD’S WORD THROUGH THE LENS OF THIS TIME

The Psalmist says, “O that today you would hear his voice” (Ps 95:7). As you read any passage of Sacred Scripture that is part of your prayer during these days, listen especially for how in his word God is speaking directly to you about how to find the grace he offers in this time (see No. 1 above). He wants to speak to your heart: to offer his wisdom about what this crisis means, his guidance about how to respond, his assurance that “all things work for good for those who love [him]” (Rm 8: 28). He is close; listen for him.

9. ‘TOUCHSTONE’ IS EUCHARISTIC COMMUNION

During this time when the public celebration of Holy Mass has to be suspended, we need the graces of the Eucharist more than ever. For these are the graces whereby the Holy Spirit works in our lives — through our dying to self and living for the Father that is Jesus’s Paschal Mystery. These graces can be available to us through Spiritual Communion. Please pray for Spiritual Communion in the fruits of Christ’s sacrifice at least every Sunday, if not more often. And gather as a family to pray together for this Communion.

10. OUR LADY’S PROTECTION

From the cross, Jesus gave us his Mother to be ours. In every age — from the days before Pentecost until today — the Church has been blessed through the Mother of God interceding for us, from her being close to us with her care and protection. Let us renew our commitment to “fly to her protection.” I invite you to join with me in praying the “Memorare” every day to commend not only the Church but also our country, indeed the whole world, to the loving care of the Blessed Virgin Mary. And, I follow the admonitions of Blessed Solanus Casey, “thanking God ahead of time” for the graces he will give us in answer to her prayers, and I will work to build a Lourdes Grotto on the grounds of our Cathedral of the Most Blessed Sacrament as a token of appreciation for what I am sure he will do for us through her intercession.

CONCLUSION

Keep your eyes fixed on Jesus (Heb 12:1). That’s the best way I can summarize what I believe we need to do to come out of this pandemic as the daughters and sons God calls us to be. Keep focused on Jesus’ example of abandonment into the hands of God the Father. Keep close to Jesus in prayer. Keep confident that Jesus is with us in this time of trial. Keep at peace, for Jesus is Lord, conqueror of sin and death, victor over every evil.



The Most Reverend Allen H. Vigneron
Archbishop of Detroit

All Things Considered

The church of San Marcello on Rome's Via Corso (a street noted for shopping) houses a venerated wooden crucifix from the 15th century. The numerous traditions of miracles attributed to this "Most Holy Crucifix" began on May 23, 1519.

On that night a fire completely destroyed the church but from the ashes emerged the crucifix of the main altar, untouched. A small oil lamp still burned at the Crucified's feet.

The scene greatly touched the faithful of Rome, and several began to meet every Friday evening to pray. Pope Leo X ordered the rebuilding of the church in 1519.

Three years after the fire, Rome was hit by the "Great Plague".

The faithful carried the crucifix in procession through the streets of Rome – despite the bans understandably put in place by the authorities to halt the spread of the contagion. The procession lasted 16 days. As it progressed, the plague showed signs of retreating, and every neighborhood sought to keep the crucifix with them as long as possible. Finally, as the crucifix reentered its home church, the plague ceased altogether.

When Pope Francis embarked on a "procession of one" to venerate the Cross of San Marcello, he did it to make a statement that the cross – which represents suffering and death – actually holds the key to resurrection and new life.

We can't go to Rome. Not even the Romans can go to San Marcello these days. But what we can do is put a crucifix out in a prominent place in our homes. Put a picture of one up as a screen saver. Post one on your phone. Seeing it should put you in a spiritual frame of mind.

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These last two weeks of Lent are given a specific name – Passiontide. They lead us up to the liturgies of Holy Thursday, Good Friday and Easter.

Pastors in the Archdiocese of Detroit (and across the world) are receiving directives from their bishops that Passiontide the year 2020 will have a decidedly different look. This will be the year that for most Catholics, the great three days of our faith will be celebrated in isolation from one another.

Given how much we have learned to rely on these sacred celebrations, what is *more* sacred is human life. The mounting evidence is that the only way to break the back of the Coronavirus is for us to practice social distancing in an extremely serious way. Vaccinations are still months away. The only way we have of fighting this disease is to stop its transmission from one to another.

Each one of us has been thrown into one of the most strenuous Lenten retreats of our life. Each one of us will have to walk the next few weeks in relative solitude.

One of the symbols of passiontide is the veiling of sacred pictures, statues and crosses. The origins of this custom seem to come from an medieval tradition of the "hunger cloth" which was a huge violet cloth hung in front of the altar to keep the congregation from viewing the altar. Originally Lent was a time that public sinners were "banished" from the church and had to do a public display of penance. Over time the understanding that everyone is a sinner prevailed and sinners were no longer restricted from the liturgy in church, but the hunger cloth gave all attending a "fast of the eyes."

The isolation order we are living under now is something like that purple veil. This is a time when we remove a whole lot of unnecessary distractions from our lives. It's a time to focus on the fundamentals. It's a time for deeper appreciation of those closest to us and those who often get ignored by us. Removed from receiving Holy Communion, we hunger for it all the

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Pope Francis walks the deserted streets of Rome on his way to pray at the Crucifix of San Marcello Church.

All Things Considered

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more. Concerning that veil, keep this thought in mind: *"On this mountain the Lord will destroy the veil that veils all peoples, The web that is woven over all nations; he will destroy death forever. The Lord God will wipe away the tears from all faces; The reproach of his people he will remove from the whole earth; for the Lord has spoken."* Isaiah 25:6-9

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We're scrambling to find equipment so to continue our limited capabilities for broadcasting Saturday/Sunday mass from St. Ambrose. We could use one person with experience in this area to help during Holy Week.

Our church building will be open for private prayer on Sundays between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 1:00 p.m. There will be exposition of the Blessed Sacrament during that time. We must limit those in attendance to ten - no closer than six feet apart. And, please, wipe down the area where you were seated using the cleaning materials we have provided.

At the suggestion of our bulletin publisher, we will continue to print a hard copy of *The Beehive*, albeit in reduced numbers. These copies will be available in church. We can mail one to you if you provide us an address. You can always access *The Beehive* electronically on our website or Facebook page.

Anointing of the sick in the local hospitals will be all handled by the Catholic chaplains on staff. This is meant to reduce the number of non-medical persons at those sites. The families of persons at the point of death, and not hospitalized should of course, call the rectory for anointing.

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We've committed ourselves to keeping our full-time employees on full-pay through Easter. You can reach our office staff and pastoral ministers via phone or Email. We are making cut-backs in discretionary spending and utilities, in an effort to keep our cash flow positive. Electronic giving is helping us keep our head above water for now.

TRP

Faith Formation Station

*"In the multitude of my anxieties within me,
Your comforts delight my soul." (Psalm 94:19)*

As we continue to deal with a unique and uncertain situation, know of our continued prayers for you and your family. Here are a few articles provided by the Archdiocese of Detroit with links to further resources.

detroitcatholic.com/voices/fr-stephen-pullis/keeping-sunday-holy-in-a-time-without-mass-six-tips-for-the-faithful

detroitcatholic.com/news/gabriella-patti/now-what-livestream-mass-times-free-resources-available-during-covid-19-crisis

These "Resources for the Faithful" are wonderful and worthwhile for families. You have everything you need there to keep up with your faith formation at home. I know once things get settled with my own children I will be exploring these resources with them. In the meantime, take time to pray together, share stories of faith and family together, love one another, and breathe.

Here are some other simple things you can do right now if you don't have time to check out the AOD links:

- Send cards to distant relatives, elderly neighbors, emergency healthcare workers, and public safety officers and let them know you are praying for them.
- Read the Scripture readings for the day.
- Watch Mass together online.
- Review your prayers, especially the Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory Be, Sign of the Cross, and Apostles Creed.

First Communion Families:

Over the next few weeks, you can continue your family's sacramental journey in the following ways:

- Take time to review the sacramental information provided in the yellow folder from our parent meetings.
- Read through the "We Share Family Time" take-home flyers that have been sent home from class on Sundays.
- Go over the "My Mass Book" and the basic Catholic prayers with your child.
- Watch the "Sophia Sketchbook" and "Busted Halo" Sacrament online videos together.
- Look through family photos of baptisms, communions, and marriages together and share stories.
- Eucharist textbooks will be mailed home at a later date for families to work on at home.

Assure your children that once we get through these days ahead we will regroup as a program and the St. Ambrose faith community and celebrate the Sacrament of the Eucharist. It may not be as we planned, but it will be wonderful and amazing – as is the love God has for us.

Confirmation Families:

As you know the retreat we had planned was cancelled when all the Parochial Schools in our Archdiocese were shuttered. We will be exploring other retreat options in the upcoming months and will be in touch with you once we have something scheduled.

Please check the St. Ambrose parish website under Religious Education for program updates and additional resources as they become available. Check your email for two articles: one on handling the crises with faith and one detailing domestic church resources.

Kelly Woolums

From Our Archbishop

As citizens of Michigan, we join with our neighbors in observing measures to address the spread of COVID-19. As we continue to practice social distancing to limit the virus' spread, our response as the Body of Christ must always begin in faith. We believe Jesus is still Lord. We believe that God can bring good from this time. We believe that we are not abandoned but remain – however mysteriously – in the loving hands of the Father.

It is with great sadness that I have to announce to you that Holy Week celebrations will not be offered publicly this year in the Archdiocese of Detroit. To ensure we cooperate with and support the governor and local health officials during this time as well as assuring you of my continued commitment to the work of unleashing the Gospel, I am issuing these directives regarding the life of our parishes, the administration of the Sacraments – particularly to those who are sick and dying – and the celebration of Holy Week.

While it is not possible for us to gather in our parishes during Holy Week and on Easter, it is possible for us to be connected in other ways. I ask you to remain attentive to aod.org and spiritualcloseness.org for ways to be connected with each other during these days. I would also ask you to please continue your financial support to your parish. They rely entirely on your contributions and your generosity. I am very grateful for your support, especially during this time.

I ask all the faithful in the Archdiocese of Detroit to join me, the Holy Father and faithful around the world in prayer. I know this is an unprecedented time in the life of our local Church. But unprecedented challenges bring unprecedented graces. If we unite ourselves to the Lord we will emerge from these days of trial and uncertainty more ready to proclaim the Good News of Jesus Christ.



Sacramental Directives

The following directives are being issued based on Governor Whitmer's "Stay Home, Stay Safe" Executive Order of March 23, 2020. These directives are in place through Easter Monday, April 13, 2020.

- Parish offices are to be closed and employees, as they are able, are to work from home. Pastors should take precautions to keep their churches clean and open, if they are able, and available for prayer, especially for those interceding for the sick. Parishes should look for innovative ways to spiritually support the faithful, including livestreaming of Mass. Since the spiritual well-being of the faithful in this time is essential, a very small number (not to exceed 10) is permitted so that a quality livestream Mass is possible.
- Funerals and weddings are to be suspended during this time. Priests should coordinate with their funeral directors when families request the rites proper to funerals. Graveside services are still permitted provided they observe proper social distancing.
- Baptisms are also to be suspended during this time. Where there is a real danger of death, the person should be baptized in the hospital or home of the parents. In danger of death, the faithful should consult with their pastors.
- The pastoral care of the faithful must always be paramount. Therefore, priests should consider the best options for the celebration of private confession for those in dire need of the sacrament.
- Administering the Sacraments of Initiation to those in RCIA is to be postponed until a later date when the fuller community can be present. The Archbishop will determine a suitable time for the reception of these members into the Church.
- In the case of an emergency, a person may at any time be baptized, confirmed or received into the Church.

The Beehive

is the parish weekly bulletin of the
St. Ambrose Catholic Community
Detroit/Grosse Pointe Park, Michigan

Pastor: Rev. Timothy R. Pelc

Pastoral Minister: Charles Dropiewski

Religious Education: Kelly Anne Woolums

Minister of Music: Louise Veltri

Dr. Norah Duncan IV – on hiatus

Office Manager: Peggy O'Connor

Secretary: Mary Urbanski

Sacramental Celebrations

Masses: On the Lord's Day –

Saturday Vigil - 4:00 p.m.

Sunday - 8:30 and 11:15 a.m.

Baptism: Arrangements for both adults and infants to be made by contacting the rectory.

Penance: As announced and by appointment.

Marriage: Couples should contact the rectory office a minimum of six months in advance of the proposed date to make arrangements.

Funeral: Normally celebrated within one week after the deceased's passing.

Directory

Parish Office: 15020 Hampton

Grosse Pointe Park, Michigan 48230

Tel: (313) 822-2814 **Fax:** (313) 822-9838

Email address: stambrose@comcast.net

Religious Education: (313) 332-5633

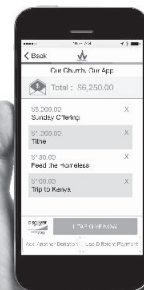
Pastoral Ministry: (313) 332-5631

Ark Scheduling: (313) 822-2814

Parish Website: stambrosechurch.net

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Liturgy Schedule for the Coming Week

Monday, March 30

Lenten Weekday

Tuesday, March 31

Lenten Weekday

Wednesday, March 25

Lenten Weekday

Thursday, March 26

St. Francis of Paola

Friday, March 27

Lenten Weekday

Saturday, March 28

St. Isadore, Doctor of the Church

Sunday, March 29

Fifth Sunday of Lent

- Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament from 8:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. in church.
- Web Mass broadcast any time Sunday.



Scriptures for the 5th week of Lent

March 30

DN 13:41c-62

PS 23:1-6

JN 8:1-11

March 31

NM 21:4-9

PS 102:2-3, 16-21

JN 8:21-30

April 1

GN 3:14-20, 91-92, 95

DN 3:52-56

JN 8:31-42

APRIL 2

GN 17:3-9

PS 105:4-9

JN 8:51-59

APRIL 3

JER 20:10-15

PS 18:2-7

JN 10:31-42

APRIL 4

EZ 37:21-28

JER 31:10-13

JN 11:45-56

APRIL 5

MT 21:1-11 Procession

IS 50:4-7

PS 22:8-9

PHIL 2:6-11

MT 26:14-66



Join us on Facebook
facebook.com/stambroseparish

Palm Sunday March 28th and March 29th

"In cooperation with the governor's executive order, parish offices are closed.... Pastors should take precautions to keep their churches clean and open, if they are able, and available for prayer, especially for those interceding for the sick. Parishes should look for innovative ways to spiritually support the faithful, including live-streaming of Masses and supporting the catechesis of the faithful through electronic means. Palms are not to be distributed in the parish during the "Stay Home, Stay Safe" executive order and may be distributed at a later time."

Archbishop Allen Vigneron

Your Envelope Speaks ... the Inside Story

To operate, each week our parish requires a *minimum* of..... \$10,100.00

On Sunday, March 22, 2020

in envelopes we received: \$4,618.00

in the loose collection 0

in electronic donations \$4,636.00

for a total of..... \$9,254.00

Under budget for the week..... \$846.00

Number of envelopes mailed 900

Number of envelopes used 35 –

Spending Spotlight

It's been a reasonably mild winter, weatherwise. No matter – liability issues compel St. Ambrose to ensure that the sidewalks, parking lot, walkways, entryways and steps are cleared of snow and treated with a variety of snow and ice melting chemicals (where appropriate) for every measurable snowfall. Some years, the cost for such services has been as high as \$40,000 for a season! This year, we managed a lot of the snow ourselves – and still the contractor's bill for the month of February 2020 alone was \$6,672.00.

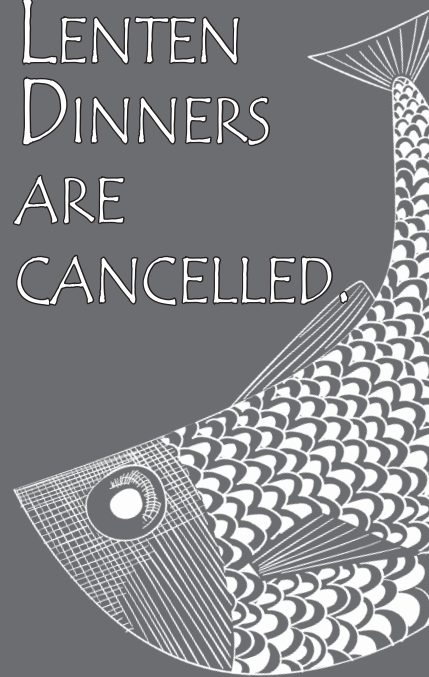
Our Sick

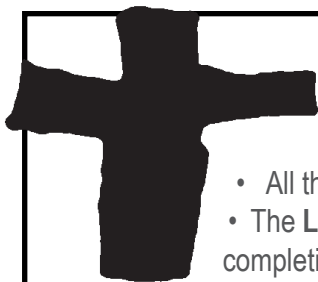
Please pray for those who are seriously ill or who are hospitalized: Pat Blake, Karen Culver, Ann Sullivan Kay, Donald Miriani, Bonnie McKenna, Jeanne Noto, David Schumacker, Matthew Elias, George Bucec, Emilie Kasper, Darby O'Toole, Anna Noto Billings, Vilma Rivers, Vilma Marone, Eileen O'Brien, Martha Luna, Dina Engels, Liz Linne, Donna Barnes, Betty Greenia, Alexandra Cullen, Charmaine Kaptur, Frank Gregory, Alex Billiu, Gladys Bogos, Wayne Wallrich, Jerry Hansen, Jackie Walkowski, Kristen Kingzett, Denise DiBiancha, Valerie Dryden, Angela Stack, and Maria Simcina.

52 Sundays

52 Sundays offers simple and insightful ways for your family to spend time together each Sunday learning more about the Catholic faith and having fun while you're at it. Materials are available for download online or you may sign up to receive the weekly email at www.52sundays.com/

PENANCE
SERVICES
AND OUR
LENTEN
DINNERS
ARE
CANCELLED.





Lenten Observances

- Ash Wednesday and Good Friday are days of *total* fast and abstinence from meat.
- All the Fridays of Lent are days of Abstinence from meat.
- The **Law of Abstinence** from meat binds persons from the completion of their 14th year — from the day after their 14th birthday, throughout life.
- The **Law of Abstinence** forbids the use of meat, but not eggs, milk or products or condiments made of animal fat. Permissible are soups flavored with meat, meat gravy and sauces.
- The **Law of Fasting** binds persons from the completion of their 18th year to the beginning of their 60th year, i.e., from the day after their 59th birthday.
- The **Law of Fasting** allows only one full meal a day, but does not prohibit taking some food in the morning and evening, observing as far as quantity and quality are concerned — approved local custom. The order of meals is optional; i.e. the full meal may be taken in the evening instead of at midday. Also: (1) the quantity of food taken at the two lighter meals should not exceed the quantity taken at the full meal. (2) the drinking of ordinary liquids does not break the fast.
- In keeping with the spirit and meaning of the Lenten fast, Catholics are encouraged to observe the Good Friday fast through Holy Saturday and until after the celebration of the Easter Vigil.

MICHIGAN BE COUNTED 2020 CENSUS

The Catholic Church has a rich tradition – and indeed a Gospel mandate – of caring for the most vulnerable in society. While individual Catholics and Catholic organizations have a responsibility to address local needs, government programs and funding also play a role in combatting poverty, educating children and providing support for the vulnerable. The U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops has shared the significance of the census and its accuracy, a message the Catholic Bishops in Michigan also echo:

“Census data helps direct more than \$800 billion annually to key programs designed to advance the common good, strengthen families and reduce poverty. The Catholic Church and other service providers rely on the national Census to provide an accurate count in order to effectively serve those in need. We urge for all people to be counted in the Census, regardless of their citizenship... Our society, rooted in the strength of the family cannot risk missing opportunity to give children and parents the tools they need to succeed.”

The program scheduled for Sunday, March 29th with Tom Hickson, Vice President for Public Policy at the Michigan Catholic Conference will be rescheduled at a later time. Find the Michigan Catholic Conference on Facebook, Twitter, YouTube and Instagram, or visit micatholic.org.

Spiritual Communion

Since people are unable to receive the Eucharist, the Body and Blood of Jesus, they are asked to make an act of spiritual communion.

St. Thomas Aquinas (13th century) defined this as “an ardent desire to receive Jesus in the Holy Sacrament and a loving embrace as though we had already received him.”

St. Teresa of Avila (16th century) wrote, “when you do not receive communion and you do not attend Mass, you can make a spiritual communion.”

St. John Vianney (19th century) wrote, “If we are deprived of Sacramental Communion, let us replace it, as far as we can, by spiritual communion, which we can make every moment; for we ought to have always a burning desire to receive God.”

St. John Paul II (20th century) wrote, “it is good to cultivate in our hearts a constant desire for the sacrament of the Eucharist. This was the origin of the practice of spiritual communion, which has happily been established in the Church for centuries and recommended by saints who were masters of the spiritual life.”

To make an act of spiritual communion pray: *My Jesus, I believe that you are present in the Most Holy Sacrament. I love You above all things, and I desire to receive You into my soul. Since I cannot at this moment receive You sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart. I embrace You as if You were already there and unit myself wholly to You. Never permit me to be separated from You. Amen.*

Another shorter prayer would be: *I wish, Lord, to receive you with the purity, humility and devotion with which your most holy Mother received you, with the spirit and fervour of the saints.*