

**From:** pjankowski@yahoo.com  
**Sent:** Monday, March 16, 2020 2:53 PM  
**To:** pjankowski@yahoo.com  
**Subject:** St. Patrick's/St. Anne's/Sacred Heart News & Notes for March 16, 2020 (Group #1)

## **ST. PATRICK'S / ANNE'S / HOPKINS PARK NEWS & NOTES**

### **MARCH 16, 2020**

Dear Friends of the Mailing List:

I had this great experience I wanted to share with you from the weekend...

I committed myself to leading a confirmation retreat in the diocese this last weekend, which gave a particular group of junior high students a bit of normalcy for the weekend (if it makes any difference, no cases of coronavirus have been documented in the lower half of the diocese and there were only thirty-five kids at the retreat). The retreat was entitled, "New Beginnings," as I try to tell the kids that no one is alone in this journey of faith and that there are lots of folks... especially GOD!!!... who want to walk with the students in their journey. As part of the retreat, I have kids "act out" new beginnings in life (first time to a new city, first day in religion class, etc.) as well as selling common items as the "new and improved" thing that you have to buy!

For this latter project, the first grade teacher was in the school building during this retreat and she was kind enough to hand me a few odd items from her classroom for this sales' pitch from the students. One of these items was a potholder, which the kids tried to sell off as a "virus wipe" (you gotta love kids!). Anyhoo, the first grade teacher told me that one of the kids "selling" this "virus wipe" actually made the potholder for the teacher seven years previously... and the student did not even remember this! When I brought the student into the first grade teacher's classroom for this story to be shared, a little emotion came forth, telling me how meaningful the student found it that a teacher would keep something that the student made in first grade. I love these moments of the faith!

Speaking of faith, I was really humbled by the response that came forth from our "drive by communion" drive this last weekend at the Masses. We need to honor the bishop's request to suspend Masses during this time of sickness in the country. We

also cannot deprive the faithful of the sacraments. After calling a good number of you through our "OneCallNow" message system (we will need to update info from all of you in the upcoming months - we had *ninety* bad numbers in the system), we told you to check out my "WebCam" Mass on the parish website and YouTube (BTW, the Knights of Columbus in Momence were kind enough to foot the bill on the webcam as well as the LED lighting in the basement of the church - that was about a \$1,000 gift to St. Patrick's Church in Momence this weekend!).

As of this writing, those of the faith watched almost 650 views of this WebCam Mass that we offered and another 125 or so faithful stopped by the church for "Drive By Communion." The Knights of Columbus served almost three hundred Fish Fry Dinners and almost ninety Irish Dinners this weekend (a good number "to-go," which seems the way we have to move forward at this time). We have to offer grace to those in need and at least we are doing what we can. If you have not yet watched the Mass, you can do so at our parish websites ([www.stpatrickmomence.org](http://www.stpatrickmomence.org) or [www.stannestanne.org](http://www.stannestanne.org) or [www.sacredheartpembroke.org](http://www.sacredheartpembroke.org)). You can also watch the video directly on the YouTube website at the following link:

<https://youtu.be/cpDrMiVpolQ>

The one great downside to all of this is that the parish collections are tanking as a result. The St. Anne's collection is about a thousand dollars short of what we usually make; I donated \$1,000 out of pocket to help the Momence collection but that won't get us too far. I don't even know what to say about Sacred Heart. There is an "Online Giving" link for Sacred Heart ([CLICK HERE!](#)); you can mail checks directly to **ST. PATRICK'S IN MOMENCE (119 N. MARKET ST. - MOMENCE, IL 60954)** or **ST. ANNE'S IN ST. ANNE (PO BOX 470 - ST. ANNE, IL 60964)**. I suspect that we will be offering WebCam Masses and Drive By Communion through the end of the month, at the very least. As I stated in last weekend's homily, please be safe, be prudent but DON'T PANIC. Life isn't worth it - our goal in life is to get to heaven, not panic on earth.

One last thing...

Mal Peterson, Kevin Blanchette and Joanne Hermann have been working on an Alumni Newsletter that they wish to mail out to parishioners. Below is *the long version* of the Newsletter - a four page version will be mailed out later in the Spring and inserted in the St. Patrick's bulletins...

[St. Patrick's Irish Review \(March 2020 Alumni & Parish Newsletter\)](#)

Below is my homily for last weekend:

## [Fr. Pete's Homily for the Third Sunday of Lent \(March 14-15, 2020\)](#)

You can read all my homilies at the following link:

### [All Fr. Pete's Homilies](#)

Here is the St. Patrick's bulletin from last weekend:

### [St. Patrick's Bulletin - March 14-15, 2020](#)

Here is the St. Anne's bulletin from last weekend:

### [St. Anne's Bulletin - March 14-15, 2020](#)

You can access all the bulletins a the following link:

### [Parish Bulletins](#)

God Bless,

## **Rev. Peter G. Jankowski**

*Gloria Dei Vivens Homo (The Glory of God is Living in Man)*

- *St. Irenaeus of Lyons*

## **Pulpit Announcements:**

1. If anyone would like to receive Fr. Pete's weekly **News & Notes** (which includes bulletins, homilies and parish information online), please include your email address on the sign-up sheet in the back of church.
2. If we are allowed to celebrate Masses this weekend, Fr. Pete and Fr. Jason Nesbit (Pastor, Maternity BVM) will be offering a **Night of Reflection and Reconciliation** on Sunday, March 22<sup>nd</sup>, starting at 6:00 p.m. Following a brief reflection (Fr. Jason in English; Fr. Pete in Spanish), we will offer the sacrament of reconciliation for those who wish to take advantage of the opportunity.

## **Please Pray for Our Sick:**

Ron Gall



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