A Locomotive Story:

In the depths of the Depression the Norfolk and Western Railroad built several magnificent locomotives in their shops. The most unusual thing about the steam engines was they were not needed. Aware they had a talented and dedicated workforce they did not want to lay off their employees and have them drift away from the railroad. The class Y-5 Mallet locomotives were built to keep their shop force’s skills sharp so they would be ready when the need came. During World War II, a few years later, it proved a wise decision.

Clearly, I didn’t introduce our staff at this time for want of other news. I want you to know how many people are engaged in operating the parish. In addition to their deep commitment to the Church, all of us on the payroll depend on the parish for our livelihood. Even our volunteers require some expense from us so they can supply our needs. Our monthly payroll is $22,500. Without your weekly contributions we cannot pay our dedicated staff for long.

There are two ways you can help us retain our dedicated staff: First, if you haven’t already signed up consider Electronic Funds Transfer (EFT)—it’s how I give my offering to the parish. A set amount is deducted from your checking account or credit card at an interval you determine. Even if you choose this option only temporarily it will help us through this crisis. We would like to increase our present EFT giving from 30% to at least 50%. Second, if your uncomfortable with EFT, you can still send your contribution through the mail or drop it by the rectory.

We realize everybody is taking a financial hit while we’re under quarantine. We especially appreciate your sacrifice to insure your parish will thrive.

As always and especially now, you are in my prayers,

Fr. Nick

Please pray for Elizabeth de Vogelaere who died last week. Her burial is March 31, 2020. May the eternal light shine upon her.

Last Thursday, we celebrated the Solemnity of Saint Joseph. As patron of families it seems fitting we ask his intercession during the pandemic. Below is a prayer from the Novena of Saint Joseph I have adapted for us:

Saint Joseph, you are the faithful protector and intercessor of all who love and venerate you. You know that we have confidence in you and that, after Jesus and Mary, we come to you as an example for holiness, for you are especially close with God. Therefore, we humbly commend ourselves, with all who are dear to us and all that belongs to us, to your intercession. We beg you, by your love for Jesus and Mary, to assist us during life and to support us at the hour of death.

Glorious Saint Joseph, spouse of the Immaculate Virgin, pray for us to have pure, humble, charitable minds, and perfect resignation to the divine Will. Be our guide and model through life that we may die as you did in the arms of Jesus and Mary.

Loving Saint Joseph, faithful follower of Jesus Christ, we raise our hearts to you to implore your powerful intercession in obtaining from the divine Heart of Jesus all the graces necessary for our spiritual and temporal welfare, particularly the grace of a happy death, and the special grace we now implore, a swift end to the plague ravaging our world.

Amen.

Collection for March 22nd, 2020

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"Cure the sick, raise the dead, cleanse the lepers, cast out demons. You received without payment; give without payment." - Matthew 10:8

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