

**Saint Francis and Saint Ambrose Roman Catholic Parishes**  
**P.O. Box 216**  
**Saint Paul, Kansas 66771**  
**620-449-2224**

April 2, 2020

Dear brothers and sisters of St. Ambrose and St. Francis Parishes,

During this time of separation and isolation due to the current pandemic, I pray for you daily. Please pray for me. I very much miss praying with you at Holy Mass in the parishes and at Prairie Mission. I also simply miss you. We may not realize how much we love, need and cherish Mass, Holy Communion and each other until we are in a situation like this. The one reality that unites us is our Baptism in Christ and our faith in and love for Him. We are one in and through Christ's love. It is love that unites us to Christ and each other.

Jesus says in Sacred Scripture, "Be not afraid." Our Holy Father recently reminded us of the presence of Christ with the disciples in the boat during a storm on the Sea of Galilee, and of Him calming the storm. We now find ourselves in that boat and storm. Yet Jesus is with us in this storm. We must stand firm and have faith in God's presence and providence in this our hour of distress and need.

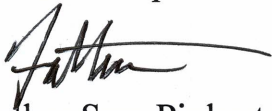
We also find ourselves in battle. May Holy Michael the Archangel defend us in battle! In this battle, like all, God has given us the spiritual armor of faith, hope and love. However, in this battle the enemy is invisible. Pray to Holy Michael. Protect others and yourselves by frequent hand washing and observing social distancing of six feet or more from others. This is just common sense.

Pray daily for those suffering and dying from this sickness. Pray for the healthcare workers who care for them, first responders, police and military personnel, as well as our government and the leaders of the nations of the world. I find myself simply stopping at times throughout the day to offer the Hail Mary for each and all, as well as for you and your loved ones.

In this time of distress and need I encourage you as families and individuals to pray and read Sacred Scripture. Pray the Rosary, the Way of the Cross, and the Divine Mercy Chaplet. Watch Holy Mass on television, if possible. Make Spiritual Holy Communion as well.

The only way we can find meaning and merit in suffering, death and times like this is in Jesus and His passion and death. However, beyond death is resurrection, which would be for us at this time, an end to this pandemic. In prayer we give our anxieties and fears to God. Throughout this crisis may Christ's resurrection not be forgotten by anyone of us. Be not afraid! Our loving Savior Jesus, Who conquers all, is with us!

Yours with pastoral love and prayers, in Jesus with Mary, I remain,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Father Sam Pinkerton". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Father Sam Pinkerton

P.S. If you would like to receive the Sacrament of Penance, call me to schedule a time. If you simply need to talk, do not hesitate to call as well at 449-2224.