

November 16, 2020

*“If God is with us,
it will be accomplished.” – St Jeanne Jugan*

Dear Family Members and Friends:

Since our last update announcing a recent positive test for COVID-19 among our staff, we want to assure you that all our Independent Living Residents and those in Assisted Living Resident were subsequently tested. With great relief, we thank God and claim that everyone tested negative.

As COVID-19 begins yet its third wave, we find it necessary to make further modifications to the visitation guidelines under the direction of our Medical Director, ISDH, CDC and Marion County representatives. Along with visitation guidelines, we are advising families to look at the Holiday Recommendations from ISDH website: https://www.coronavirus.in.gov/files/IN_COVID-19_LTC%20holiday%20guidance%2011.6.20.pdf

Earlier last week we implemented a 14-day quarantine for any Resident leaving the premises for outings or doctor’s appointments. Later, we introduced the new Marion County Public Health Order regarding guidelines for family visitations.

Starting today, November 16, 2020 at St. Augustine’s, family and/or friends visiting their loved ones will be required **to present proof of a negative COVID test done within the previous 72 hours of the visit.** Additionally, there will be only one visitation at a time (in the front lobby) and only two family members per Resident during a scheduled time frame, which will last 25 minutes. This allows enough time for sanitizing before the next visitation begins.

The Residents have been notified of these changes along with the change of the daily Mass schedule, distribution of Holy Communion and reception of the Sacrament of Penance. Communal dining for Independent Living has changed to safeguard proper social distancing; the Assisted Living and Nursing Units will remain the same.

As COVID-19 outbreaks continue across Indiana, the State Department of Health is partnering with the Indiana National Guard to provide staffing and infection control resources to support skilled nursing facilities in their care of Residents. Today, we are happy to welcome the National Guard who will assist us and assure adherence to our visitation guidelines and other current mandates of the state.

We assure you of our deepest gratitude for your cooperation and understanding with the difficult yet necessary choices we need to make for the safety of our Residents, your loved ones. We indeed recognize the sacrifices you are making in this regard. Be assured of our prayerful support!

God bless you!

Mother Francis Gabriel and all the Little Sisters at St. Augustine Home