



Dear Parishioners,

As we find ourselves in the middle of a pandemic the size of which we have not experienced since the early 1900's we find ourselves having to deal with many things that are changing daily and in some cases hourly. Having said this, I believe as Catholics we need first to begin with our Faith in Jesus Christ. Through the power of the Holy Spirit and the grace of our God we will continue to use all our God given resources to help our families and neighbors to deal with and handle the necessities of dealing with the pandemic.



Therefore, the first place to begin each day is in Prayer asking for the guidance and wisdom of God to make the right choices in our daily life that will help others through this time that will impact people in social, financial and psychological ways. I am hoping in our spiritual life we will learn the power of God and Prayers. There are many places to go online and with books which will help inspire us to more deeply enter the Soul of our being in this time for as St. Thomas Aquinas would say the Soul animates the rest of our body and life to do the right thing. By means of our priestly ministry at this time Fr. Enrique and I will still be available for requests we can fulfill without violating the requirements of our church and government. Have stated this I will list what we are doing as a Archdiocese and Parish with more detail than what was shared from our Archbishop.

1. The schools will be closed as of Tuesday Night March 17th (St. Patrick's Day) for Teachers, Students, Parents, and all help staff. The two principal's will be available to answer calls as well as teachers be available to respond by their e-mails from the home, however please do not overtax them during this time. Many have families that they need to deal with also.
2. **The Parish offices will not be open for the public.** We will have a few of the Staff in the offices to answer questions on phones or e-mails, but this will be a skeleton crew therefore they may not get back to you immediately. But have patience because we will respond. Closed to the public means even the non-essential staff at least for the next two weeks which includes the heads of Music, Youth Ministry, RCIA, Ministries of the Liturgy and other groups that because of Masses and Programs

cancelled are not needed daily on the premises. Nevertheless, they will check phone calls and e-mails.

3. Select Masses from the parish will be on St. Robert's website with a link on Holy Families' website. These will not be live streaming, but pre-recorded. This is being worked out with a parish volunteer and Matt Zembrowski at this time. Also all Mass intentions will be fulfilled because myself and Fr. Enrique will continue to do Private Daily Masses.
4. All Committee meetings such as RCIA, Adoration, Stations and many other groups that meet in our facilities will be cancelled until further notice.
5. The Priest will continue to serve the community sacramentally. Any meetings we have with people will be handled in a different way which will be worked out between the people meeting and the particular Priest they are meeting with. Baptisms will continue if the family wants them but with smaller groups, they **can** also be rescheduled if you would like family and friends to come. The Weddings of the two parishes don't begin until April 25th and we will see when that time comes what the Archdiocesan directives will be. We will also be ready and willing for Last Rites or Sacrament of the Healing (Anointing of the sick). Do realize though that many Hospitals and Nursing Homes have restrictions which may limit our ability to share the Sacrament.
6. An area that we Cannot do is to personally bring Holy Communion to Shut-ins or those who want to receive daily because Masses are cancelled at this time. We as Priest could be exposed to the Virus showing little symptoms and hence not knowing it and would not want to expose others. Another concern in this area would include not having Holy Communion brought by a family who may be Eucharistic Ministers to their family or neighbors because that would be an injustice to those who do not have those connections.
7. Parents and Families that have students who will be Confirmed or receiving their First Holy Communion this Spring please do not worry about the **requirements, dates and times** because all of those issues will have to be decided later. More importantly I as the administrator of our Parishes will NOT create obstacles to the Sacraments for our children.

I am sure there may be other questions. Please first contact the person in charge of the area that the particular question may refer to and if no answers can be given or they cannot answer I will try to help in this area. Please everyone, keep safe and help protect the vulnerable in this time of Crisis. As I have heard so many say we may never get the Virus, but let us be vigilant for our brothers and sisters, for as those before the Lord asked, “when did we see you hungry, when did we see you in need...” and as the Lord said, “when you saw the least of my brothers and sisters you saw me.” With Prayers and concern for all of you.

Blessings and Prayers,
Fr. Ray Guthrie Administrator