

Dear Parishioners,

At last weekend's Masses, I tried to prepare you for this difficult time when our church would be closed. When I mentioned that we should be ready for this to occur, I didn't realize that last weekend would have been the last weekend of public Masses in the Archdiocese of Hartford. I did not think it could happen so quickly and had a feeling of shock and sadness to receive the message. I never thought in my lifetime as being a priest that I would live to see this.

After hearing the news, I went to church and said my prayers; I wanted to spend time with God and to find peace although I understood the circumstances that we were going through. Such chaos is not easy for any one of us.

I wondered what God's message is by living through this crisis. Maybe we need to find out what is truly important in our lives. We must think about putting God first in our lives. Maybe we should think more about the spiritual aspect of our lives rather than the material aspect.

Many people have stocked up on material items for this coming time, but have we thought about stocking up for our soul? During this time of Lent we must repent from our wrongdoing and we must be kind and charitable. As Catholics, we must trust in Jesus because only He can protect and save us. Love Him from your whole heart and follow Him because He is our Light and our Salvation.

After leaving church, I had a feeling that I should try to go forward and do what I should do. I will celebrate Masses and pray for all of you, and will be a good Shepherd.

It is with a heavy heart that I need to formally inform you that, due to the widespread concern of the COVID 19 pandemic, Archbishop Leonard Blair has cancelled all weekend and weekday masses in churches in the Archdiocese of Hartford starting immediately. Bearing in mind that your wellness is our primary thought, it is necessary that we comply with the Centers for Disease Control and the order issued by Gov. Ned Lamont on Monday. This ban will be in effect until April 3rd.

Many of you have scheduled Masses for loved ones, and I want to assure you that I will celebrate all Mass intentions at their specified time, but the Mass will be said privately. This means that church doors will be locked and no one will be allowed inside. When a Mass is not being said during the day, our church will be open for

parishioners. Please use the angel doors and see the bulletin or social media for specific hours.

Remember to watch our streamed Mass each Sunday at 11:15 a.m. on our Facebook page. It will be available on our website after 12:30 p.m.

Let us take time to pray for those who are affected by the COVID-19 pandemic and I ask that you please pray for an end of the crisis so that we can return to our normal activities.

It is sad to say, but I need to remind you that all our scheduled Lenten activities, except Monday and Saturday confessions, have also been halted until April 3rd.

In Christ

Fr. Gregory

Pastor