

Dear Parishioners:

We all need to do our part to halt the spread of this virus and to keep our towns and communities safe. At this time the following remain as scheduled:

We will **continue** to have Adoration, Stations of the Cross, week day and weekend Masses, Healing Mass, and Confessions. The Holy Week schedule remains the same.

When attending any of the above, please follow the directive from Archbishop Blair and also the guidelines from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). Please see below.*

- **Faith and Friendship gatherings and blood pressures screenings are canceled for March.**
- **Bingo will not be held on March 16 or March 23.**
- **The cleaning of the basement will be postponed until April.**
- **Youth Formation classes will not meet and will follow the Region 16 schedule.**
- **Soup suppers and the Living Stations of the Cross are cancelled.**

*Archbishop Blair issued certain directives with regard to the celebration of Mass:

- Effective immediately and through Sunday, March 29, the Archbishop has dispensed from the obligation of attending Sunday Mass the elderly and those of any age who fear for their health or the health of their families. Anyone who is ill or showing symptoms is already obliged not to attend.
- Parishioners who are absent from Mass are urged to make alternate provision for their weekly contributions since parishes depend on this for their operation. A schedule of televised Masses appears below.
- In a larger church people should be encouraged to spread out to maintain a greater distance from one another and to choose one of the more sparsely attended Masses.
- Confessionals should be equipped with screens that protect, and a safe distance should be maintained, especially between priest and penitent for those who go face-to-face.
- Priests have the duty to minister to the sick and to administer the sacraments to the dying, but they are also obliged to protect their health by following all the directives of health professionals in approaching anyone who is ill. Elderly priests in particular should be especially careful, given the severe toll of the coronavirus on the aged.

As Holy Week draws near it is clear that kissing the cross on Good Friday is not appropriate this year and a bow or genuflection will suffice.

Schedule of Televised and Streaming Masses

ORTV

The television Mass is broadcast seven days a week at 10:00 AM on WCCT-TV (WB20) and WCTX-TV (MyTV9). It can also be seen Saturday and Sunday at 5:00 AM on WCCT-TV. The Mass can also be found streaming live at these times on <http://www.ortv.org/streaming/streaming.htm>.

EWTN

The Eternal Word Television Network (EWTN) is available from many local cable providers, including Comcast Digital, Frontier Fios, Cox Communications, and Cablevision. The daily Mass is televised at 12:00 AM, 8:00 AM, 12:00 PM, and 7:00 PM. Various prayers and devotions are offered at different hours of the day.

- Not coming to work or sending your children to school if you or they have symptoms of acute respiratory illness. Stay home until you are fever free for at least 24 hours without use of a fever reducing medicine;
- If you need to stay home to care for a sick family member, please do so;
- Wash hands often during the day and instruct family members to do the same;
- Avoid touching the mouth and eyes;
- Cover coughs and sneezes;
- Use hand sanitizer;
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces using a regular household cleaning spray or wipe and;
- Encourage your family and friends to educate themselves, monitor their health, and take preventative actions to stay healthy.

The St. Joseph Medal Ceremony will not take place at the St. Joseph Cathedral. We will present the award to John and Sandra Riley, this year's recipients, at a later date.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. Let us pray that this current crisis will end soon and that those who are ill will recover without complications. Be assured of my prayers.

In Christ,



Rev. Grzegorz Jaworowski