

March 16, 2020

Dear Friends in Christ,

In light of the most recent developments regarding the spread of the Covid-19 Virus and after much consultation I have made the following decisions regarding our parish community. Please remember that these decisions are made solely with your wellbeing in mind and for the good of the greater community here in Ann Arbor.

As your pastor and fellow parishioner I have to share with you that the current crisis has tested all of my experiences and abilities. This is all new to me and the members of the Pastoral Team and so as we find ourselves responding to ever changing circumstances we ask for your prayers and forbearance.

This email should be read in conjunction with the email sent to you dated March 12 and currently listed on our parish webpage.

SUNDAY AND WEEKDAY MASSES- ONLINE MASSES ONLY:

<https://video.ibm.com/channel/when-necessary-use-words>

- We will suspend the public celebration of all Masses. Please remember that the Bishop has given a general dispensation from the obligation to attend Sunday Mass.
- Beginning tomorrow and for the foreseeable future Fr. Tony, Fr. Jose and I will celebrate our weekday and weekend Masses in private, in a closed Church, but we will ***live stream*** those Masses at the following times-

Weekdays Monday to Thursday at 9:15am

Friday at 8:15am,

Saturday 5pm Vigil Mass,

Saturday 7pm Spanish Mass

Sunday 10:30am Mass

- By live streaming we are giving you the opportunity to stay connected with our community of faith and to join us in prayer at this time of great difficulty and fear.
- For those unable to receive Holy Communion we invite you to make a Spiritual Communion through prayer: <https://www.ewtn.com/catholicism/devotions/act-of-spiritual-communion-339>

OUR CHURCH REMAINS OPEN!

- We have decided to keep our Church open for public prayer for those who wish to avail of it and to continue to have public adoration of the Blessed Sacrament on Thursdays following a closed morning Mass. This too will allow us to continue the pray for healing. ***The Church will open around 10am each day and remain open until 7pm.***

CONFESSIONS and OTHER EVENTS

- Our all Day Confessions scheduled for this coming Thursday, March 19, has been postponed to a later date.
- Saturday Confessions also cancelled until further notice.
- Where possible we have managed to salvage some parish events and programs by converting them to online programs. Please continue to review our website for these changes.

PARISH OFFICE HOURS

- For the foreseeable future Parish Office Hours will be from 8am to 5pm or by appointment.

PLEASE CONTINUE TO SUPPORT YOUR PARISH

- *As you can imagine our most recent Sunday collection left a lot to be desired and yet the work of our parish goes on. So can I ask you to continue please to support your community of faith so that we can continue to carry out the wide variety of ministries and activities- the demands for help from the less fortunate continue to come and so do the bills?*

Here again is the link for **Sunday Giving**: you may give a one-time donation or a recurring gift by credit card or by entering your checking account details:

<https://giving.parishsoft.com/App/Giving/stfrancisannarbor/>

If you can help in a **practical way** or need help, please let us know by signing up here:

<https://stfrancisa2.wufoo.com/forms/can-you-help-do-you-need-help/>

Once again I ask that you all continue to exercise utmost care and caution at this time. Remember that we all bear a sacred responsibility not to put ourselves or others in any unnecessary danger. Unless tested there is no real way to know if you have this virus and so by limiting our movements we limit the possibility of it spreading.

If you fall into one of the two most vulnerable categories of people- our Seniors or those with underlying medical conditions, I ask that you in a special way limit all of your activities.

I know this is a time of great fear and confusion for many but let us remember that we are a people of faith and so we entrust ourselves into the gentle arms of the Good Shepherd that he might lead us all through this “valley of darkness.” (Ps23) So let us be strong in faith and continue to be there for one another in prayer and in action.

God bless you all,

Fr. James