

Dear Parishioners,

As you may have already heard, Bishop Johnston has suspended all public Masses in the diocese through at least Friday, April 3. This includes both weekday and Sunday Masses. All parish activities and meetings are also cancelled including Friday Stations of the Cross and our Tuesday night Soup Dinner and Scripture Study. Bishop Hogan Memorial School classes and activities are also cancelled through Monday, April 6. CCD and Confirmation classes will not be held during this time period.

I will continue to offer daily mass for the intentions that have been scheduled. If there is no intention for the day, I will offer the mass for the People of St. Columban Parish during this difficult time.

The main doors of the church will be open daily from noon-6pm for personal prayer. I would ask that when others are in the church with you, you practice social distancing of at least six feet from other people.

The sacrament of confession will be offered every day from 5-6pm in the church in the confessional. I would encourage all who come to the sacrament to offer additional prayers for deliverance from our present situation. I would like to offer adoration of the Blessed Sacrament every day from 5-6pm while confessions are going on. However, the Blessed Sacrament is not to be left alone. Therefore, in order for this to happen, I would need at least one person to agree to offer a holy hour from 5-6pm every day. If no one is available, we will not have it. Again, practice social distancing when others are present in the church.

An abbreviated parish bulletin will be available online on our parish website: stcolumbanonline.org, as well as links on our Facebook page. I will make homilies available in pdf form on the website and Facebook page as well.

Despite all of this, we ask for your assistance both spiritual and financial through this difficult time. We still have bills to pay and continue to depend on your generosity even when Mass is not offered publicly. Please consider mailing your support to the parish office, depositing your envelope in the mailbox in front of the rectory, or you may also consider online giving. Online giving set up and instructions are easily available on the St Columban website donation tab and online giving link. We cannot continue to function without your generosity and we hope that when this present crisis is over, we will be able to return to business as usual without interruption.

Everyone is encouraged to celebrate Sunday as a domestic church by taking time to pray together at home with your family members. At our diocesan website: www.kcsjatholic.org there will be some additional links in addition to making a Spiritual Communion, praying a rosary, Chaplet of Divine Mercy, and particularly our recommended Prayer to Mary, Health of the Sick.

"O Mary,
you always shine on our path
as a sign of salvation and of hope.
We entrust ourselves to you, Health of the Sick,
who at the cross took part in Jesus' pain, keeping your faith firm.
You, Patroness and Protector of the People of the United States of America,
know what we need,
and we are sure you will provide
so that, as in Cana of Galilee,
we may return to joy and to feasting
after this time of trial.
Help us, Mother of Divine Love,
to conform to the will of the Father
and to do as we are told by Jesus,
who has taken upon himself our sufferings
and carried our sorrows
to lead us, through the cross,
to the joy of the resurrection. Amen.

Under your protection, we seek refuge, Holy Mother of God. Do not disdain the entreaties of we who are in trial, but deliver us from every danger, O glorious and blessed Virgin." Amen.