

PASTORAL GUIDANCE DURING THE CORONAVIRUS COVID-19 PANDEMIC

I would like to inform the community that the parish is not closed however during this time, it is important that we limit visitors. We want to assure you that your safety is our priority.

We want to be available to support you during this crisis. We are using social distance, creating small circles of contacts and minimizing movements. We will do our best to conduct business by using the phone, emails, Facebook, the St. James website and through our email tool, Flocknote.

Celebration of the Sacraments

Masses

The priests are celebrating the Eucharist Daily for the intentions of the parishioners as their call is all about. The priests may invite the members of staff as the number of people should not exceed 10.

Confessions

The priest will continue to offer the Sacrament of Reconciliation using the social distance protocol. Beginning Saturday March 21st starting at 2pm, confessions will occur in the courtyard weather permitting. If needed, confessions will be held in the church.

Visiting the sick and homebound

We have suspended visits to the sick and homebound to minimize the spread of the virus. Visits will be made only to those who are in danger of death.

Baptisms

Emergency baptisms may be held with limited (10 or less) family members in attendance.

Sacrament Preparation

Sacraments for candidates preparing to receive them in April have been canceled until further notice.

Easter Vigil and reception of candidates/catechumens

We will not be able to publicly celebrate the sacraments of baptism and rite of reception at the Easter Vigil. There may be an option to do this at the Vigil of Pentecost. Bishop Olmsted has also dispensed the requirement of scrutinies and readiness will be determined at some time in the future.

Adoration

The Blessed Sacrament will be exposed starting at 9AM until 4PM each Friday starting Friday March 27th, until further notice.

Protect the Vulnerable and Continue to Support Your Parish

Consider making donations to St. Vincent de Paul. Ensure you are checking on vulnerable neighbors or calling the parish to see what you can do for any vulnerable members of the community.

Here at St. James, we have parishioners who can benefit from your assistance by offering to shop and deliver groceries. If you are in need of assistance or would like to volunteer, please contact the parish office. Reminder: all volunteers must have completed their Called to Protect requirements.

Without your regular support, St. James will struggle to meet regular financial obligations. Please continue to support. For example, while you are watching the Mass on television you can take up a collection in the living room and arrange to later mail or drop off your gift to St. James. Or you can give online via at <https://www.myowngiving.com/default.aspx?cid=1351> or by calling the parish office directly at 623-581-0707.

Good is Good!

Fr. Ben