

March 17, 2020

Dear Parishioners,

In this trying time of dealing with the Corona Virus many of the happenings in our Church world are changing. Even though many of you will feel somewhat torn by what is happening over the next few weeks, we must remember that these changes are being made for a “pro-life” reason. In obedience to Bishop Persico and in cooperation with the Pennsylvania Conference of Bishops the following changes will take place at St. Patrick Parish, until further notice.

- Beginning Wednesday, March 18th, the celebration of public Masses in the Diocese of Erie are suspended until further notice.
- Priests will continue to celebrate a private Mass at some time during the day for the intention of the day, Monday thru Friday. There will be no Mass said on Saturday. The Sunday Mass that is also said privately will be for the intentions of the parishioners of St. Patrick Parish. The personal intentions for the weekend Masses will be rescheduled.
- The church will remain open during the day, from 7:00 AM until 1:00 PM, Monday thru Friday, so that parishioners, if it is their desire, may come for individual prayer before the Blessed Sacrament. You are reminded to keep a “social distance” from others who may be in the church.
- Monsignor will still hear individual confessions on Saturdays from 2:00 PM to 4:00 PM and on Wednesday evenings from 5:00 PM to 7:00 PM. You are reminded to keep a “social distance” from others who may be in the church.
- Anointing of the Sick will continue on an “as needed” basis.
- First Friday calls will be suspended until further notice by both Monsignor and Deacon Reed.
- Confirmations scheduled through May 17, 2020 will be rescheduled, after the virus situation stabilizes.
- Funeral Masses will be celebrated, but with only immediate family and funeral home workers present.
- Baptisms will be celebrated, but only with the sponsor(s) and immediate family members present. New water will be blessed and used for each baptism.
- Marriages will continue to be celebrated, but with only the bride, groom, two witnesses, and the immediate family present.
- The parish office will be open Monday thru Thursday from 9:00 AM to 12:00 Noon. We will be glad to take your phone calls during these hours to schedule Masses, etc. After you have scheduled a Mass, you may send the stipend by mail. There will be only one person manning the office. If you need to speak to a person who is not in the office at the time of your call, please ask to leave that person a voicemail so that they can return your call when they are in the office. Please limit your physical visits to the parish office to essential needs.

- St. Patrick Parish will send a copy of the bulletin, either weekly or bi-weekly, to keep you up to date on what is going on, in the parish and the diocese, in regard to the Corona Virus and what affects it is still having on the functioning of the parish.
- A Sunday Mass from St. Peter Cathedral will be live-streamed on computers. When we find out the website it will be live-streamed on, we will let you know.

The Flower Fund envelope that is enclosed with these two letters not only helps to defray the cost of flowers for Holy Week but is also used to purchase flowers for other occasions throughout the year. Names on the envelopes will be remembered along with the intentions of the parishioners at the Easter Sunday Mass (which, most likely, will be privately celebrated).

On the back side of my Easter letter you will find a schedule of Holy Week events. The letter and schedule were printed before the aforementioned directives from the diocese were made known. It is quite possible that we will have to cancel many, if not all, of these events. We will keep you informed to the best of our ability.

Please know that I am praying for you through these difficult times. May God bless you and keep you in good health until we are once again able to gather to and break bread at the table of the Lord.

Sincerely, in Christ,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Msgr. John J. Herbein". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'M' and 'J'.

Msgr. John J. Herbein,

Pastor