

LETTER FROM MONSIGNOR EMMET NEVIN

March 15, 2020

Dear
Parishioner,

First of all, thank you for your patience and understanding on the abrupt cancellation of Masses as of March 14/15. When I read my copy of the *Flocknotes* memo at 2pm, I was just as surprised as you were. We immediately began the somewhat daunting task of disseminating the information to as many of you as possible. Our apologies to those of you who did not get the word and showed up for Mass only to read the signs we placed on the windows.

In these challenging times we urge every individual and family to please be included in our **parish email address book**. We would like to reach to **ALL** of our St. Aedan households when special situations such as this arise. We send our emails out *in the blind* and never share them with anyone. You may either sign up for *Flocknotes* (which includes Archdiocesan alerts), or else send your Email address directly to our parish at **<StAedansIT@optonline.net>**.

THE LATEST FROM THE ARCHDIOCESE AS OF SUNDAY, MARCH 15, 2020

1. **All public Masses are cancelled.** This includes Sunday as well as weekdays. I offered up my *private* Mass for the intentions of the parishioners of the parish. Those whose *announced* Masses are being cancelled will be given an opportunity to re-schedule them at a later date or else request a refund of the mass stipend.
2. **All parish activities**, social & sporting events, missions (**including our Parish Mission**) are cancelled.
3. **Churches will remain open** for prayer or *private* stations of the cross, etc. Booklets will be provided.
4. **Funerals and Weddings** will be permitted, but you should try to limit them to family members only. Families who are concerned about coming into the church may request a priest to provide Christian burial at the cemetery with a memorial Mass celebrated at a later date.
5. **Parish Baptism ceremonies**, if not postponed, should be limited to immediate family members.
6. Upon reasonable request, **Confessions** may be heard, by "appointment," at the Parish House.
7. **Confirmation** dates will be determined/confirmed by Auxiliary bishops in consultation with the pastors.
8. Experts advise people to be spaced 3 - 6 feet away from one another while in the church.

9. Parishes will continue with increased cleaning and sanitizing efforts including wiping down pew railings. Hand sanitizers will continue to be provided at all entrances and the church lavatory along with new automatic soap dispensers.
10. Under these extraordinary circumstances, the **obligation to keep the Lord's day** holy can be fulfilled by maintaining a prayerful attitude and through personal and family prayer. The faithful are also urged to watch the celebration of the Eucharist on television as well.
11. **Mass** will be celebrated at St. Patrick's Cathedral and will also be available on many cable systems via the Catholic faith Network and its website www.catholicfaithnetwork.org, livestreamed on the St. Patrick's Cathedral website at www.saintpatrickscathedral.org/live and broadcast on the Catholic Channel of Sirius XM (Channel 129)
12. Effective Monday, March 17th until Friday, March 20th, **Catholic schools will be closed**, with the possibility of a lengthier closure.
13. Beginning, Saturday, March 14th until at least Monday, March 23rd, in-person **Religious Education (PREP) and Youth Ministry programs are suspended**.
14. **The Parish Office** will remain open during regular business hours Monday – Friday: 9am – 12pm & 1 – 5pm.
15. As always, **in an emergency, requiring the presence of a priest** (Ex. Anointing at home, or in the hospital) please contact the regular Parish Office telephone number at **845-735-7405**. WE are here for you!

May God continue to bless and to guide our President and government leaders during the days and weeks ahead. Through the intercession of Our Lady of Guadalupe, Patroness of the Americas, may we all remain strong and healthy as time goes by. God bless you and may God bless America. Saint Aedan, pray for us.

Prayerfully in
Christ,
Msgr. Emmet Nevin