

Immaculate Conception & Assumption of Our Lady
53 Winter Hill Road / Tuckahoe, NY 10707

Phone: 914-961-3643

Website: icaParish.org

March 19, 2020

Feast of St. Joseph, Patron of the Universal Church

Dear Parishioners,

In response to the challenge we face because of the Coronavirus and the ban on celebrating public Masses, we at ICA have been praying fervently for all of you. Every day, Fr. Novio, Fr. Silva and I celebrate Holy Mass daily, praying for you, your families, and our world in this time of great need. The Mass intentions scheduled for these days are offered privately as planned. Though we cannot be united physically at Mass physically, we can be spiritually.

I encourage you to pray a daily **Spiritual Communion** in place of the celebration of Holy Mass. A simple one is:

My Jesus, I believe
that you are truly present
in the Blessed Sacrament.
I adore you! I love you!
Please, come into my heart, I pray!

Also, we are diligently working to set up a **Livestream** of the celebration of **Mass** from our Church for Sundays. So, even though you cannot physically come to Mass, you will still participate spiritually in the Mass. If this is successful, then to support you in this time of crisis, daily prayers, devotions, talks and updates will also be available in our Parish via livestreaming. More information on this is forthcoming. Please go to our website - icaParish.org - to stay in touch with the Parish.

In order to help slow the spread of COVID-19 in our community, Cardinal Dolan, in collaboration with the leadership of the Archdiocese of NY and local health officials, has put the following mandates in place:

1. The public celebration of Holy Mass is suspended pending the decision of the Cardinal and health officials.
2. Dispensation has been granted to all Catholics in our Archdiocese from the obligation to attend Sunday Mass. It continues until the crisis is over.
3. All public celebrations of the Liturgy, the Liturgy of the Hours, Exposition & Adoration, Stations of the Cross, and all other group activities are to cease.
4. Weddings, funerals, and baptisms will continue but will be celebrated in a simplified manner and scope at the discretion of the parish priests. Call the Parish Office for information.

5. The latest public statements and information from the Archdiocese regarding COVID-19 can be found at <https://archny.org>.
6. In light of the new mandates, the following will occur here at Immaculate Conception & Assumption of our Lady, effective immediately:

Our churches are open personal prayer and private devotions at these times.

- The **Church of the Assumption** is open from 7 – 9 AM each weekday; closed on Saturday; and open from 9 AM - 12 noon on Sunday.
- The **Church of the Immaculate Conception** is open from 7 AM – 12 noon each weekday; Saturday 7 – 9 AM; and Sunday 7 AM – 12 noon.

All are welcome but for safety sake please practice social distancing.

The **Sacrament of Reconciliation** is offered by appointment only. All regular schedules have been suspended. Call the Parish Office to schedule a time for Confession. All three of us are here to serve you and your family.

The **Sacraments of the Anointing of the Sick and Holy Communion** will continue to be celebrated with the extremely sick and the dying. Please contact the parish office if you or a loved one needs these Sacraments. They are of great importance, especially for the dying.

The **Weekly Collection** remains absolutely essential to our parish operations. Even though we will not gather physically for Mass, please continue to give via WeShare (go to icaParish.org and find WeShare or <https://icaparish.org/we-share>) or by bringing or mailing your contribution to the Churches or Parish Office.

These are truly unprecedented times for us all, but we, in faith, will make it through this period of trial by continuing to trust in the Lord and turn to Him in prayer. I will continue to keep you updated via our parish connection points: Flocknote, the Parish Office at 914-961-3643 from 8:30 AM – 4:30 PM on Monday to Friday, and the parish website (icaParish.org).

Mary, Health of the Sick and our Mother, pray for us.

God's blessings upon you and your family,

Fr. Anthony Sorgie, Pastor