

03-23-2020

My dear St. Pius X Catholic Church Family Members,

As our country and world responds to the COVID-19 health threat, please know **our ongoing prayers are with each one of you.** Please stay safe and, above all else, try to rest in the peace and strength that Jesus Christ offers us.

As you may have guessed, **the crisis has also dramatically affected our ministry here at church.** We are sorry that all Masses have been suspended out of concern for the safety and wellbeing of everyone. Common health concerns have impeded our ability to minister to you in person. The faithful are reminded that they are dispensed from the Sunday obligation during this time. This year our understanding of the Lenten season has been re-defined for us and suffering and sacrifice have taken on a whole new meaning for us all.

Despite these new challenges, St. Pius X Catholic Church will continue to reach out to our beloved parishioners. **Our St. Pius X Catholic Church building will be open for private prayer and veneration** Monday through Friday from 8:00 AM through 12:00 PM and on Saturdays from 2:00 PM through 5:00 PM, and on Sundays from 8:00 AM through 12:00 PM. (Even during the Holy Week). We will also be offering Confessions on Saturdays from 3:00 PM to 4 :00 PM. Please feel free to come at your convenience and spend some time in prayer.

Church office hours will be scaled back and reduced to Monday through Friday from 8:00 AM to 12:30 PM, only for important needs. However, if an emergency comes up, please do not hesitate to contact through office phone or Email.

**From Bishop Curtis J. Guillory to the Clergy - Directives #2 – March 23, 2020 –
Diocese of Beaumont**

As the pandemic worsens, the Bishop is making the following changes.

- ❖ **All funeral celebrations will be conducted as Graveside Services only, with the immediate family present. A Memorial Mass in Church will be scheduled later after this crisis has passed.**
- ❖ **The Chrism Mass will be celebrated only by the Bishop in the Cathedral, and live streamed. Only a few persons will assist him. Priests, deacons and aspirants will not be present.**
- ❖ **The Holy Father requests that Catholics universally, with other denominations, pause at noon on Wednesday, March 25, Feast of the Annunciation, to pray the Lord's Prayer for those suffering from the effects of the virus, and to ask deliverance from this disease.**

- ❖ **The Palm Sunday Mass, the Holy Thursday Liturgy, the Good Friday Liturgy will be celebrated privately by the Bishop, in the Cathedral and live streamed.**
- ❖ **Easter Sunday Mass will be celebrated privately by the Bishop, and live streamed and televised on Channel 6 from the Cathedral, 11:30 AM to 12:30 PM.**
- ❖ **Priests are asked to bless palms on Palm Sunday and inform the faithful of the location and times where palms can be picked up.**
- ❖ **Fr. Oli will bless palms on Palm Sunday, and it will be available on Saturday from 5:00 pm through Sunday 6:00 pm. It will be placed for pickup in front of the church door and in front of the Rectory.**

Daily Mass: EWTN: 7:00 AM., 5:30 & 11:00 PM.

Sunday Mass: UPTV: 5:30 AM, WGN:7:AM, EWTN:7.00 & 11.00AM, 6:00 & 11:00PM.

Request for Anointing of the Sick can be made by calling me at 337-541-9019.

Offerings may be dropped off in the Drop Box in front of the Rectory.

As strong devoted Catholics, we have centered our lives around the Eucharist. This temporary suspension of Masses does not prevent us from honoring and adoring our Lord. Therefore, our church will be open daily for private prayer and veneration. In closing, I ask that we not give into fear or frenzy. Rather, please resolve during these weeks to become more merciful, compassionate, and devoted to our Lord Jesus as we look forward to celebrating his Resurrection this Easter. May we each appreciate the gift God has given to us in the Eucharist and thank Him each day for such a gift. Jesus, we trust in You!

God bless & I miss you all.
Yours in the Divine Word,



Rev. Gnanavoli Arulsamy