

# CHURCH of SAINT JOSEPH

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Established 1879

March 25, 2020

Feast of the Annunciation of Mary

Dear Families of St. Joseph's School,

As you have heard, effective last Thursday, March 19, 2020 at 3:00 pm, all daily and Sunday Masses were cancelled in the Diocese of Bismarck as directed by Most Reverend David D. Kagan, Bishop of Bismarck. The directive also included that all Catholic Schools are to be cancelled until further notice.

As the Diocese of Bismarck enters these uncharted waters, a time in our history when there has never been a suspension of all public worship, church gatherings, Catholic education, and a large portion of our daily Catholic lives. Our teachers and faculty have been working diligently to set up distance learning classrooms. I want to thank them for their docility during this difficult times. In addition to the work that you are doing at home with your children, here are a few things you can do for your family's faith formation during this suspension of School:

Our Sunday 10:30 am Mass will be streamed via Facebook Live on the St. Joseph Facebook page. I encourage you to gather as a family and join us in prayer.

Our confession schedule at the parish through Easter will be Saturday 3-4 pm, in the church proper, or by appointment. Confessions before the Holy Triduum are scheduled for Wednesday, April 08, with confessors available from 3 - 7 pm. This schedule allows ample time for all of you to receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation before Easter and confessions will be provided in a "hands-free" environment, which you will understand when you arrive.

Please remember we rely on your generous financial donations for the future and stability of St. Joseph's Church and School. St. Joseph has, and will continue to be a gift to our community long after this COVID-19 virus. Our entire community is under financial stress, I understand that. But I do ask for your prayerful consideration in your continued support of our church and school to the extent which you are able.

Enclosed with this letter are a few extra resources and ideas that you can do as a family, if you choose — devotions like the Stations of the Cross, the Rosary, Divine Mercy Chaplet, Memorare, Act of Spiritual Communion, and information on FORMED, which is a great resource for anyone in the family. You can also access our parish app for various prayers and devotions. Use these sources as you see fit.

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*We are a family that fosters spiritual guidance, service, and fellowship through the ministry of the Sacraments of Jesus Christ to all of God's people, seen and unseen.*

Although we do not know when this will end, we know it will end. But for now, we must all work together to defeat the COVID-19 virus. Thank you for your continued prayers for me, our faculty and staff and all of our teachers!

Pax Christi

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Fr. Josh Waltz". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Fr. Josh Waltz