

CHURCH of SAINT JOSEPH

Established 1879

March 25, 2020

Feast of the Annunciation of Mary

Dear Faith Formation Families,

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 parish religious education classes are to be cancelled until further notice. Therefore, I would like to take this opportunity to convey to you that in addition to our Wednesday evening classes being cancelled until further notice, so has our First Holy Communion, scheduled for April 26, as well as Confirmation, scheduled for May 13.

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 and a large portion of our daily Catholic lives, I assure you our parish continues to be here for you, my staff continues to serve you, and Fr. Patrick and I will be praying for you and will assist in any way that we are able. Here are a few things you can do for your family's faith formation during this suspension of classes:

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. 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 to the extent which you are able. Many of you have recently have signed up for online giving and that is a possibility for all of us, which I use as well. Signing up for online giving is simple and can be done directly through our website! Church envelopes may be placed in the drop box at our parish office, to the right of the door, located at 108 3rd St NE.

108 Third Street, NE • Mandan, ND 58554 • 701-663-9562 • Fax 701-663-6522

Website: www.stjosephmandan.com Email: office@stjosephmandan.com

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.

Enclosed with this letter are a few 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.

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 staff and all of our teachers in our Religious Education system as well as our teachers who are unable to teach at this time.

Pax Christi

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Fr. Josh Waltz". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a prominent initial "F".

Fr. Josh Waltz