

My dear brothers and sisters in Christ:

This morning at Holy Mass, as I looked around at the gathered people, I fought back tears realizing that within a few hours time, I would learn if this would be the last Mass publicly offered for the foreseeable future. Sadly, today the Archbishop has suspended all public sacramental and liturgical activities throughout the Archdiocese effective immediately until further notice. This suspension includes: Sunday and weekday Mass, weddings, funerals, devotions, perpetual adoration chapels, and private visits to churches and chapels. Also, communion to the homebound is also to be suspended but permitted only to those in danger of death. Further, all schools remain closed until further notice and parish and school staff are to operate remotely wherever possible with only necessary staff on campus and only when necessary.

The dispensation from the obligation to attend Mass on Sunday's and Holy Days remains in effect until further notice.

The sacrament of confession and anointing of the sick are to be offered only in danger of death until further direction is given by the Archbishop regarding best practices.

The full statement by the Archbishop is available on the website of the Archdiocese of Indianapolis.

First, public Holy Mass at St Nicholas and St Anthony will be suspended beginning today with the intention for us to have permission by the weekend to have "Parking Lot Mass." Please note that all daily Masses for the remainder of the week, even "Parking Lot Mass" is canceled, including the St. Joseph's Day Mass. Plans regarding "Parking Lot Mass" will be communicated to you when possible.

Second, our perpetual adoration will close this evening (Tuesday, March 17) with a Eucharistic procession and benediction beginning at 7pm. This will be done "Parking Lot Mass" style. Please come if you are able, and like this past Sunday, remain in your cars and tune the radio to FM 107.5 unless a sign at the parking lot entrance is posted with a different channel listed. (I will be using the newer more powerful transmitter, so there will be better coverage, but it may be a different channel.). Tonight, the regularly scheduled confessions and prayer service will be canceled.

Third, I am working on possible ways to restore individual confession apart from danger of death and will communicate the plan to you when possible.

Please remember that things are changing by the minute so please make sure that you are signed up for FlockNote or are checking websites and social media for updates as this continues to develop and plans

modified based on the current situation.

Finally, on a personal note, I want to assure you that I will make every effort to offer Mass privately for your intentions and to pray for you daily. Because over these next weeks, I anticipate that I will be caring for the sick and dying in a higher frequency than normal, I am choosing to self-isolate in an attempt to not infect anyone should I become exposed. I would ask that you respect this decision and maintain an appropriate social

distance from me as well as from the rectory. If you are in danger of death and need me for anointing of the sick please contact me directly on my cell phone as soon as possible.(317-750-0647)

Please, above all, remember this a Lent of extra prayer, sacrifice, and works of charity. Being disciples of Lord

today, is the only way that we can be saints in the life to come. Prayer knows no social distancing, so let's

become Saints together. I remain—

Yours in Christ,

Fr. Shaun P. Whittington