

## **St. Jude Church: March 17, 2020**

### **Temporary Suspension of Public Celebration of Holy Mass**

All public Masses throughout the Diocese of Metuchen are temporarily suspended and will resume no earlier than April 3, when the situation will be re-evaluated as circumstances unfold.

Holy Mass was celebrated at St. Jude's this morning, Mar 17, honoring St. Patrick, as the last public Mass offered until the crisis has abated. Mass will be celebrated privately each day, including Sunday, by Fr. Jim and Fr. Ron, who remains under self-quarantine. We're honoring the requested intention of the day, with special prayers for you, the beloved members of our parish family of faith!

As was expressed in the homily at Holy Mass this past weekend, we are living in a time of Prayer, not Panic; of Faith, not Fear! Let us draw to the "well" that is the Lord Jesus and listen for His voice, as we echo the words of the 95<sup>th</sup> Psalm: "If today you hear HIS voice, harden not your hearts!"

We're looking to live stream Holy Mass. Our parish has amazingly talented disciples!

### **Adoration and Private Prayer: Our Church is open for prayer daily from 9:30am til 6pm.**

#### **We'll have Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament from 9:30am-7:30pm Wednesday.**

Our outdoor stations of the Cross, shrine to St. Francis of Assisi and to Our Lady is available for you to come individually or as a family to increase your devotion and offer prayer for the needs of our families, parish family, community, and the world!

Praying in large groups should be avoided. In all situations, observe social distancing practices, recommending 3-6 feet of space. The inside doors of Church will be open, please, on coming in/going out, take advantage of the hand sanitizer located on the wall closest to Church on coming/going.

We will have our **24 Hours for the Lord** adoration/exposition must be adjusted because of curfew time, thus from **Fri, Mar 20 from 4pm-7:30pm & Sat, Mar 21<sup>st</sup> 5:30am-4pm**. If you are not able to keep your time slot, notify us as soon as possible. Again, observe social distancing.

If you are not able to visit the Church, 24 Hour adoration is available on the web:

[www.ewtn.co.uk/live/adoration](http://www.ewtn.co.uk/live/adoration)

To have an intention request, enter it in the Book of Intercessions, located in the vestibule of Church or send us an email, we'll place them with our Book.

**Penance Services** The Sacrament of Penance will be offered as we indicated, during the 24 Hours for the Lord, **Fri, Mar 20: 4:30pm-5:30pm & 6:30pm-7:30pm; Sat, Mar 20: 9-10am; 12-1pm.**

Observing reasonable precautions between the penitent and confessor, confessions will be heard in the chapel, use the side door to enter, there is a kneeler/chair just inside the door.

We'll announce confessions for the following weeks.

**Anointing of the Sick:** In the case of emergency, illness for surgery or special need, contact Fr. through the parish office.

**First Holy Communion and Confirmation:** Faith formation will keep you updated about any adjustments since the Sacraments are already scheduled well after Easter.

### **Temporary Closure of Catholic Schools and Religious Education Programs:**

All Catholic schools in the Diocese of Metuchen will remain closed as mandated by the State of New Jersey. Our principals and faculty members have prepared extensive plans for remote learning.

All religious education programs are suspended, Please contact Marie Draghi, PCL  
Phone # 908-362-1431 e-mail: [stjudefaithform@gmail.com](mailto:stjudefaithform@gmail.com) or Beth Thornton, Asst. PCL & Youth  
Group Coordinator [stjudecrosstrainingyouth@gmail.com](mailto:stjudecrosstrainingyouth@gmail.com)

**Parish Office:** try to observe the recommendations of the state. If you have a need, contact us by phone or email. A simple bulletin will be posted online, copies will be made available at Church.

FYI: The Church is not "closed," even though Masses are suspended, classes being taught remotely, etc. Other regular parish activities, meetings and previously scheduled events are postponed/canceled.

**Continuation of Catholic Social and Charitable Outreach:** Social and charitable outreach programs and services in the Diocese of Metuchen continue, but are adjusted as needed to meet directions mandated by the State of New Jersey.

**Holy Week and Sacred Triduum:** For now, decisions regarding Holy Week & Easter will be made as we draw closer to that time, pray for the guidance of the Holy Spirit for our Bishop and his advisors.

**Call to Prayer:** Since we cannot face this alone, we are entrusting this whole situation to our Blessed Mother, under her title of Our Lady of Guadalupe through her Son, to whom our diocese was recently consecrated, and encourage you to join us in praying this prayer:

Our Lady of Guadalupe, mother of God and of the people of Metuchen:

you always shine on our path as a sign of salvation and hope.

We rely on you, Health of the Sick, you who, at the cross, united with Jesus' pain,

keeping steadfast your faith.

You, Salvation of God's people, you know what we need and we are sure that you will provide for us,  
as at Cana of Galilee, after the adversity of these days, may joy and celebration return.

Help us, Mother of Divine Love, to conform to the will of the Father

and to do what we are told by Jesus, who has taken our suffering upon Himself  
and has burdened Himself with our sorrows to lead us through the cross,  
to the joy of resurrection. Amen.

Under your protection, Holy Mother of God, Our Lady of Guadalupe, we seek refuge,

hear our prayer and intercede for us to the Father so that we may be free from every danger.

Our Lady of Guadalupe, pray for us.

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During the time of the suspension of public Masses, a private Mass is celebrated daily at 7am. in the Cathedral of Saint Francis of Assisi and can be viewed on their website: [www.stfranciscathedral.org](http://www.stfranciscathedral.org). Televised or online celebrations of the Mass and other religious programming are available for use of the faithful on several television channels, including EWTN, on social media and youtube. See the links we've provided you via our bulletin/facebook. We'll continue to post links for your prayerful consideration.

Remember: this is a fluid situation. We do not know how long the restrictions imposed on New Jersey residents will be in effect. Please be patient and look for regular updates from the Diocese of Metuchen. For the latest up-to-date information and resources, please visit [diometuchen.org/coronavirus](http://diometuchen.org/coronavirus).