



March 18, 2020

Dear Friends in Christ,

We are confronting unique and challenging circumstances due to the 2019 novel coronavirus, COVID-19. Please receive this letter as a sign of our unity in the faith by keeping you updated on the response of our local Church, your closeness to my heart through my prayer and fasting, and an expression of my deep concern for your life of faith as your Parish Priest.

As you are likely already aware, beginning on March 16, 2020 and until further notice, Bishop Ronald W. Gainer, out of great concern for the health of the faithful and in union with the Bishops of Pennsylvania, has temporarily suspended all daily and weekend Masses in the Diocese of Harrisburg. Additionally, Bishop Gainer has suspended all public liturgies and devotions, and has asked that all churches, chapels, and parish buildings be closed, including all perpetual adoration chapels.

Accordingly, all events, gatherings, and programs at both Sacred Heart Church and Saint George Church are suspended until further notice. At this time, the Parish Office has limited services: no visitors will be admitted into the Rectory, business will be conducted as best as possible by phone, US Mail, and email. These restrictions are in accordance with the directives of Bishop Gainer and the requests of civil authorities. As the Parish Priest, my own good health allows me to minister to those in most need, those in danger of death. Also, these closures permit the parish buildings to be thoroughly cleaned.

Certainly the suspension of all public daily and weekend Masses and closure of all parish buildings makes this a particularly difficult time, yet we remain a people of prayer. On the reverse of this letter is a resources page to aid you and your families to remain faithful to the Lord Jesus.

Finally, I continue to ask that each of you would pray for the swift end to this public health situation and the recovery of health for the sick. Also, please keep medical professionals, leaders, those who serve the common good, and vulnerable persons in your prayers during these challenging days. Let us entrust ourselves and our petitions to the Blessed Virgin Mary, the Mother of God.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Fr. Mark T. Wilke". The signature is written in a cursive style.

Fr. Mark T. Wilke
Pastor