



SAINT MARIA GORETTI

Est. 1941

CATHOLIC CHURCH AND SCHOOL

March 14, 2020

My Dear Parishioners of SMG parish;

All of us are praying and doing all we can to prevent any spread of the coronavirus (COVID-19). It is important that as a parish family that we proceed with caution. As a result, all parish events are canceled until further notice.

Our Mass schedule for this weekend is as follows:

Saturday, March 14

5:30 pm Vigil Mass - in the Church

5:30 pm Vigil Mass - in the Cafetorium

Sunday, March 15

7:30 am Mass - in the Church

9:00 am Mass - in the Church

9:00 am Mass - in the Cafetorium

11:00 am Mass - in the Church

11:00 am Mass - in the Cafetorium

1:00 pm Mass - in the Church

1:00 pm Mass - in the Cafetorium

Confessions will be on Saturday at 3:30 pm in the Church

Daily Mass will be at 8:00 am in the Church

Our Bishop Michael Olson issued a pastoral letter last evening with liturgical adaptations which will be listed below.

Liturgical Adaptations:

- To celebrate Saturday Vigil and Sunday Masses with no more than 250 people present.
- If necessary, pastors should add more Masses for Sunday to accommodate the larger need for Masses with smaller congregations.
- If necessary, this Sunday Celebrations in the Absence of a Priest, (SCAP), celebrated by a deacon, may be held in addition to the Sunday Masses, The celebration of SCAP will require that priests consecrate more hosts at their Masses to be used at SCAP.
- For purposes of hygiene, remove all hymnals and other prayer aids from the pews before the Saturday night Vigil Mass.
- Enlist assistance to sanitize the church (e.g., pews, door handles, etc.) with proper sanitizing products or soap and hot water between Masses.

- Encourage the faithful who cannot or should not attend Mass to spend Sunday in prayer and to read the Sunday readings from the Liturgy. Encourage them also to continue to engage in stewardship through online giving or by mail.
- The Sacrament of Reconciliation/Penance should be celebrated behind the screen only, not face-to-face, for purposes of preventing the spread of contagion.
- All Communal Penance Services in Lent are hereby canceled.
- Pastors should consider priority for access to sacraments and pastoral care for first responders involved in tending to this current crisis.
- These contingent changes in the Mass schedule should be promulgated on parish websites by Saturday afternoon.

Obligations of charity supersede those of justice. I urge our faithful to use their judgment in consideration of their neighbor in determining whether to attend Mass. People who are sick, who exhibit contagious symptoms, or who are particularly vulnerable to the transmission of the virus *are dispensed as always* in charity from the obligation to attend Sunday Mass. *If you're sick, don't come to Mass.* Those who are caretakers of the sick and vulnerable are dispensed as always. To stay home from Sunday Mass in these circumstances is not a mortal sin. In fact, love for our neighbor should prompt each of us not to attend Mass if we are contagious and exhibiting symptoms. Those who are sick should notify their parish and for ministry.

I thank you for your prayers and assistance as we work together to prevent any spread of COVID-19.

In St Francis
Fr. Jim Angert, TOR, Pastor