



Pastor FATHER STEVE MONTESANTI



Masses @ST. MARY'S CHURCH Cheshire, MA



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Dear Parishioners,

We have numerous updates regarding the diocesan and parish response to COVID-19. Please read the following notices and share with those who may not have computer access.

This afternoon, Bishop Rozanski issued a series of directives pertaining to the COVID-19 virus. These directives are based on statements made by Gov. Baker and others pertaining to the current health crisis. The directives may be viewed on the diocesan website at <http://diospringfield.org/directives-for-confronting-the-coronavirus/>

*From Bishop Rozanski:*

1. All Masses and other activities are suspended in all parishes until further notice. I would strongly urge parishioners to view our televised Mass, the Chalice of Salvation which airs in Berkshire County at 6:00 a.m. Sunday on WXXA Fox23 Albany and elsewhere on WWLP 22News Sunday morning at 10:00 a.m. And there will be 2 live streamed Masses, Saturday at 4:00 p.m. and Sunday at 10:00 a.m., via a link at [www.stagnesc.com](http://www.stagnesc.com).

*In light of the directives noted above, Bishop Rozanski has excused all Catholics of the obligation to attend Mass as long as these measures are in effect.*

2. The only exception for parish-based activities would be Take & Eat programs which may continue at the discretion of the pastor.
3. All pastoral in-home and nursing home visits are to be discontinued unless the individual is in critical condition.
4. Catholic schools will close for two weeks.
5. In light of these circumstances the planned ACA In-Pew Commitment Weekend will be rescheduled to weekend of April 18<sup>th</sup> & 19<sup>th</sup>, 2020.
6. Working with risk management and environmental consultants, we are developing a comprehensive response plan to help guide us in the coming days, weeks, and months.

In terms of Assumption Parish, the following are the impacts the diocesan directive will have on our parish and how we are handling a variety of related issues:

1. No Masses will be held on the weekends until further notice.
2. Religious Education classes for the remainder of the year are canceled. An email will be sent to Religious Education families regarding the program.



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3. We will not release an April Liturgical Ministry Schedule until we know more about the coming weeks.
4. The entire parish complex, including the parish office and parish hall will be closed and locked until further notice.
5. Parish email and voicemail will be monitored during the closure.
6. The parish mail will be checked frequently, and any donations sent to the parish will be safely secured.
7. Choir rehearsal and other parish groups using the facilities will not be able to meet until further notice.
8. All outside groups and organizations who use the parish facilities, including AA on Wednesday evenings, are not permitted to use the spaces until the diocese advises otherwise.
9. The parish facilities will be thoroughly cleaned and disinfected during the closure.
10. If you have a pastoral emergency, such as the need for the Sacrament of the Sick (Last Rites), please call 413-743-0577.

As we receive further details over the coming weeks, we will be in touch with parishioners via email. We will also post notices on our Facebook page and website. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to ask.

We hope you all stay healthy and well. Fr. Steve and Fr. Cyr will continue to pray for each of you. May God bless you all!!!

Sincerely,

Michelle Francesconi  
Business Manager