

Pastoral Decisions and Recommendations
Due to the Pandemic of the COVID-19 (Coronavirus)
St. Mary's Catholic Church and the Chapel of Our Lady of Guadalupe
Fredericksburg, Texas
Very Rev. John P. Nolan, V.F.

The following parish changes are effective immediately and will be modified as new information is made available to the pastor.

Mass Schedule:

- **Weekend Masses:**
 - The next two weekends (March 21/22 and March 28/29) there will be no Mass.
 - Funeral and Wedding Masses will continue.
 - These decisions have been made by the Archbishop and will be continually monitored by Fr. John.

Weekday Masses:

- **Changes Effective Immediately (ALL Masses are in the Big Church)**
 - **Monday 6:00 p.m.**
 - **Tuesday 12:00 p.m. (no change)**
 - **Wednesday 7:00 p.m. Spanish (OLG @ Big Church)**
 - **Thursday 6:00 p.m.**
 - **Friday 7:30 a.m. (no change)**

Sacrament of Reconciliation:

- **Changes effective immediately**
 - **Monday- 1 hour following daily Mass (6:45 p.m. to 7:45 p.m. using confessional on the side of Mary's Altar)**
 - **Thursday- 1 hour following daily Mass (6:45 p.m. to 7:45 p.m. using confessional on the side of Mary's Altar)**
 - **Saturday- 4:00 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. (Confessional on side of Mary's Altar, No Mass following reconciliation)**

Religious Education:

- All religious education classes and events are temporarily cancelled except for RCIA.
 - RCIA will continue for adults preparing for the Sacraments.

Parish Ministries:

- ALL parish ministries will cease meeting until further notice. No exceptions.

Church Access:

- The Big Church will be locked, except during daily Mass and reconciliation.
- The Small Church will remain open at all times for Adoration and personal prayer.

St. Mary's School:

- Spring Break extended one additional week, distance learning extended an additional two weeks.

- Principle Mein will continue to offer updates to school parents as they are made available to him.

Lenten Observances:

- Stations of the Cross are cancelled effective March 20th.
- The men of the St. Joseph Society have decided it is in our best interest to cancel Friday night Fish Fry for the remainder of the Lenten season.
- Lenten Mission cancelled, however we are working to reschedule Tim Staples' visit.
- Lenten Penitential Service (Confessions) Cancelled. Additional hours offered during Lent in the evenings and as usual on Saturdays. Confessions are also offered in the office by appointment. Please see Sacrament of Reconciliation schedule above.

Weekly Donations:

- At this difficult time, we need to pray and be a loving support network for each other. Our office will remain open in order to serve our parish community. We will cut our expenditures as much as possible, but continue to need your financial support. Please consider using our online giving link to make your donations. You may visit our website at www.stmarysfbg.com

Fr. John's Recommendations:

- All the parishioners are invited for a deeper relationship with God who is our Lord and Savior. He is also our HOPE. The one who is hanging on the cross, taking care of all our sins and illnesses. He spreads only HOPE and LOVE.
 - Practice a stronger Individual prayer life - Supplications (The action of asking for something earnestly and humbly) Stations of the Cross, Divine Mercy Chaplet, Rosaries, Memorare prayer and novenas performed at home or by visiting the Adoration Chapel at St. Mary's.
 - Fasting and abstinence
 - Make yourself available to those in need who are sick by calling them, offering help regarding shopping for necessities and any other need.
 - Participate in the Mass over the television, internet or radio.

Things to be remembered - Gentle Reminders:

- *"The Power of God's Love is stronger than all the difficulties faced by the people."* Pope Francis
 - The truth is always painful - Jesus - the truth - is on the Cross suffering. It cost Him His life to give us life.
- Do not be afraid! I am with you. Our Lord and Savior.
 - Better to be safe now, than sorry later.
 - Even if all precautions are unnecessary, be prudent.
 - Be responsible- Follow the decisions and recommendations of those in authority.
 - The "Social Distance" is now the new normal.
- No shaking hands, no holding hands for the Our Father, no Sign of Peace in the form of physical contact.
- No Holy Water at the entrance of the Church (Hand sanitizer available, one pump please)
- No receiving Holy Communion on the tongue
- Keep your distance from other participants of the Mass.
- Always cover your mouth if you cough or sneeze.
- Be patient with one another.

My friends, these are very difficult times for all of us. So, may we continue to love and serve one another and stay united as a faith community. Our parish website will be a good place to find additional updates. We will continue to provide updates to the parish community as soon as they are made available, through Constant Contact and the parish website. We appreciate your prayers and support. Please know that the office staff is here to support you in any way that we can. May the Lord continue to bless each of you with good health.

Your Brother in Christ Jesus,

Fr. John