

**Our Parishes of Sacred Heart, St. Mary's, and St. Philip's and the Coronavirus Pandemic – March 20** Update for all:

In keeping with the national and state directives seeking to prevent the spread of the highly infectious and dangerous coronavirus, our bishop has directed that all public Masses be canceled.

This is quite a drastic measure, but those knowledgeable about the spread of disease tell us that the most effective way to prevent the spread of disease is the avoidance of close social contact. The goal is to keep any gatherings of persons to ten or less persons and to maintain social distancing in all contact with others and practice good hygiene (frequent and good handwashing, etc.). The cancelation of gatherings for Mass also includes communal reconciliation services and all gatherings, meetings and events of more than 10 people. These and other directives in more detail can be found at our parish website ([roseaucatholic.org](http://roseaucatholic.org)) and the diocesan website ([crookston.org](http://crookston.org)).

These directives from our bishop will remain in effect until further notice.

Meanwhile, though dispensed from the obligation to attend Sunday Mass, we are encouraged to keep the Lord's Day holy by watching Mass on on-line or on TV and making a "spiritual communion." Options for these and other ways of praying and sharing faith daily in our homes can be found at our parish website and at the diocesan website.

During these days the church buildings at Roseau and Badger will be open daily from morning to evening for prayer and for confessions at the usual and other scheduled times.

The social distancing we called to observe can be quite challenging and fearful as schools and businesses are closed and almost all social interaction being limited. The "silver lining" to these hardships is the opportunity to become more deeply aware of and attentive to the needs of others and a new awareness acknowledgement of our reliance on God. We are blessed to have the added graces of the Lenten season to grow in faith, hope, and charity during this time of "testing in the desert." As a way to remain in solidarity, I invite all to set aside time to pray at 8:00 pm each night – perhaps the rosary or a decade of the rosary or other prayers. Another good time for prayer is at 3:00 PM (the Divine Mercy prayer).

Besides this email, I and the parish will try to keep in touch with and keep you informed with daily emails, texts or posts on our parish website. We will continue to publish a bulletin and Sunday homily reflection and post them on the parish website and have copies of the bulletin available at the churches. We also have a plan in place to contact each household via phone to update our contact information and check on your needs, questions or ways that you might be able to help others in this time.

Let us please keep each other in prayer and be mindful of our need for your continued financial support to our parishes (see the bulletin and website for ways to do so).

Sincerely --- Fr. John Kleinwachter --- 463-2441