

COVID UPDATE: March 25, 2020

Archdiocese Of Philadelphia Announces Additional Liturgical Guidelines For The Celebration Of Palm Sunday And The Sacred Paschal Triduum

Today, the Archdiocese of Philadelphia (AOP) announced that Archbishop Nelson J. Pérez's previous directive to suspend the celebration of all public Masses in the Archdiocese until further notice remains in effect.

Updated liturgical guidelines developed by the Archdiocesan Office for Divine Worship and approved by the Archbishop were shared with all priests and deacons yesterday. They pertain to the celebration of Palm Sunday and the Sacred Paschal Triduum as well as the ongoing pastoral and temporal response of our local Church in the face of the Coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic.

These liturgical guidelines are intended to provide for the pastoral needs of the faithful while respecting and abiding by directives from government agencies concerning gatherings and crowd sizes.

Condensed highlights are presented below. A full copy of the most recent guidelines, along with comprehensive information and resources, can be found at <http://archphila.org/covid19/>

- The March 17, 2020 suspension of all public Masses in the Archdiocese of Philadelphia remains in effect until further notice. This includes all Sunday and weekday Masses with the faithful. Priests will continue to offer Holy Mass privately during this period and to honor all requested Mass intentions.
- All churches, following a possible published modified schedule, are to be open and available for the faithful to pray, especially to visit the Most Blessed Sacrament, in a manner that respects and follows current guidelines from governmental agencies concerning crowd sizes and gatherings.
- Although Palm Sunday Mass will not be celebrated publicly, the palm distributed to the faithful on this day has great meaning. Palm is to be blessed and available for distribution at a later time determined locally.
- The Mass of the Lord's Supper, the Celebration of the Passion of the Lord, the Easter Vigil, and Easter Sunday Masses are not to be celebrated publicly.
- The Chrism Mass will not be celebrated publicly. Instead, Archbishop Pérez will celebrate it in a private manner at the Cathedral Basilica of Saints Peter and Paul.
- The celebration of the Sacrament of Confirmation throughout the Archdiocese of Philadelphia is further postponed until Easter Monday, April 13, 2020. That timeline will be re-examined pending future development. The bishop celebrant of the conferral of Confirmation, in consultation with the pastor, will make arrangements for a new date for the celebration.
- The Archdiocese of Philadelphia will continue to stream the 11:00 a.m. Mass live from the Cathedral Basilica of Saints Peter and Paul every Sunday, including Palm Sunday, and will also stream liturgical celebrations for the Sacred Paschal Triduum from www.archphila.org.

Additional information regarding opportunities for prayer and devotions are available on the Archdiocesan website.

Hello Everyone,

Trying to keep moving is our goal so we are ready for a Grand Reopening!

I have received many calls on how to send in weekly donations so we put a secured mail slot in the Rectory door. You can also use this slot for any correspondence, Mass or SCRIP card payments, PREP registration, etc.

Many thanks for all great responses to recent Flocknotes with the prayer sheets and more. These keep us praying together even in small groups. Please continue to check Flocknotes for updates on streaming the mass and other announcements for our Parishioners.

Later this spring, we will be having our food collection for the needy . If we need to expand this for our own parishioners, it will be done!

Thanks to those who are looking after family, friends, neighbors and even us here at St. Mary's. Rectory. Please continue to look out for and help each other especially those in our parish family.

Till we chat again,

Take one day at a time with the Lord

Fr. Hutter

COVID-19 UPDATE: March 23, 2020

Archbishop Nelson Perez announced the suspension of all public Masses in the Archdiocese effective Wednesday, March 18, 2020. For St. Mary's Parish, this includes Lenten Stations of the Cross. No decision has been made regarding Holy Week or Easter Services.

Previously, the Archbishop dispensed the faithful from the obligation to attend Sunday Mass. Both decisions were made in response to the growing concern over the spread of the Coronavirus (COVID-19) and the directives provided by government and health department officials at the local, state, and national levels.

We, as a community, need to do our best to slow down and stop the progress of this virus. We continue to monitor news on all fronts and look forward to returning to business as usual. Our Church is not closing down, we continue to celebrate the Mass as scheduled and for the intentions as requested.

Please remember to care for yourself and your family, protect and assist your neighbors and the elderly as best you can. Be diligent with hand washing and social distancing

Frequently Asked Questions:

Is the Rectory open?

The staff will be available Monday – Wednesday from 8:00 AM to 4:00 PM. No face-to-face transactions can be completed at this time. Please contact the rectory at 610-933-2526 for alternate solutions for mass cards, SCRIP cards, etc.

Is the Church Closed?

Masses will continue at their regularly scheduled time on weekday and weekends. Fr. Hutter will offer the mass for the intentions requested. At this time, the public is not permitted to attend the masses.

Will Eucharistic Ministers continue to distribute Holy Communion to our homebound Parishioners?

No, we have suspended the distribution of Holy Communion by the Eucharist Ministers at this time. Nursing homes and hospitals have also restricted visitors to their locations.

Will Confessions be heard?

We will continue to offer confessions on Saturdays from 3:00 PM – 3:30 PM. Confessions will be heard in Holy Trinity Church only.

Will the Church be open for Adoration?

Yes, we will have Holy Trinity Church open from 8:30 AM – 1:00 PM on Tuesdays for Adoration only. We encourage all Parishioners to take this time and pray for our Parish, Community and Leaders. Please remember to distance yourself from other parishioners. Only 10 parishioners are permitted at a time.

Will PREP sessions continue?

At this time, no decision has been made on PREP sessions. Please watch for updates via Flocknotes.

What will happen to Baptisms, Weddings, Funerals, Anointing of the Sick?

Baptisms, marriages, and funerals will take place as usual but with due regard for the limitation of participants as decreed by state and local officials and reasonable social distancing requirements. On a case-by-case basis, Fr. will anoint anyone who is near death. Please be sure to work with your funeral director on their requirements.

Can I purchase Mass Cards or SCRIP cards?

Please contact the rectory to make arrangements for purchases.

Can I drop off my weekly collection envelope?

We certainly appreciate your donation! You can drop off your weekly donation into our secure mail slot in the rectory office door, or mail your donation to the rectory. You may also want to consider online giving (register at StMaryAssumption.org).

Will Palms be available on Palm Sunday?

We are working with local officials to arrange for the distribution of palms. Please check back frequently for an update.

Please remember to be diligent with hand washing and social distancing. Take care of your self and your family. Pray for our Parish Family, the Nation and Leaders who are tasked with making important decisions for all of us.

How to stay in touch:

Like us and watch for updates on Facebook.

Receive Flocknote updates via text or email. Text: STMARY4 to 84576

Email us at parishoffice@stmaryassumption.org