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## St. John Vianney Catholic Church

*"I will show you the way to heaven."  
– St. John Vianney*



March 13, 2020

### **SJV Newsletter – Coronavirus**

There has been much talk about the coronavirus (COVID-19), especially since the World Health Organization (WHO) has characterized it a pandemic. However, be careful how you understand the word “pandemic”. WHO Director-General said on March 11, 2020, “We have never before seen a pandemic sparked by a coronavirus. This is the first pandemic caused by a coronavirus. And we have never before seen a pandemic that can be controlled, at the same time.”

As a result of Governor Holcomb’s announcement from March 12 that non-essential gatherings must be limited to no more than 250 people, **Bishop Doherty is dispensing from the obligation to attend Sunday Mass for the last three weekends of March (March 15, 22 and 29) but regularly scheduled Masses will go on.** This is not a permanent dispensation and updates will be provided as the situation evolves.

**Starting Monday, March 16 all parish events will be cancelled until April 6. The Sacraments (Mass, Confession and Adoration) will still be offered. Stations of the Cross will not be offered during this time but people are welcome to come and pray privately.**

#### Some key guidelines for St. John Vianney Catholic Church:

- Regularly scheduled Masses will continue along with Adoration and Confessions.
- If Hamilton Southeastern Schools are closed, then religious education and youth ministry events are cancelled as well.
- The distribution of the Precious Blood at Mass is suspended at least until Easter. The situation will be reevaluated at that time.
- Remember that if you are sick or experiencing symptoms of sickness, you are not obliged to attend Mass, and out of charity to your neighbor you ought not to attend (ref. Catechism of the Catholic Church (CCC) #2181)
- **During Mass**
  - Holy Water fonts are removed, but you can still take Holy Water home from the Holy Water reservoir.
  - The presentation of the gifts is suspended.
  - The collection basket will not be passed. Rather the collection basket will be sitting in the front of the sanctuary with a sign posted for the designated purpose of the collection. You can place your offering in the basket either before or after Mass.
  - The Sign of Peace should be exchanged without physical contact. You can bow your head or wave to others to express your peace with them.
  - Remember that the Body, Blood, Soul and Divinity of Jesus is wholly and permanently present under both of the consecrated species. Thus, you receive all of Jesus when you receive only one of the consecrated species (ie. the host).
  - Please refrain from all non-essential physical contact with another person.

Remember that if you are not well, stay home! Bishop Doherty has given the guideline that “All elderly (as defined by the health department as 60+ years of age) volunteers and those with compromised immune systems should stay home”. Masses can be streamed at [ewtn.com](http://ewtn.com).

Please verify that the scheduled Carmel Deanery Penance Services are not cancelled. That will be determined by the individual parishes.

Center for Disease Control (CDC) recommendations:

- Stay home when sick. The recommended time frame is to stay home until fever free for at least 24 hours.
- Avoid touching eyes, mouth, or nose with unwashed hands.
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces in the home/work place.
- Cover a cough or sneeze with a tissue. If one is not available, cover cough or sneeze with the inside of your elbow. Immediately dispose of used tissues.

Bishop Doherty has dispensed you from the obligation to attend Mass on Sunday, but you still need to keep the Lord’s Day Holy. Please keep in mind this teaching from the CCC:

- **The Sunday obligation**
  - 2180 The precept of the Church specifies the law of the Lord more precisely: "On Sundays and other holy days of obligation the faithful are bound to participate in the Mass." "The precept of participating in the Mass is satisfied by assistance at a Mass which is celebrated anywhere in a Catholic rite either on the holy day or on the evening of the preceding day."
  - 2181 The Sunday Eucharist is the foundation and confirmation of all Christian practice. For this reason the faithful are obliged to participate in the Eucharist on days of obligation, unless excused for a serious reason (for example, illness, the care of infants) or dispensed by their own pastor. Those who deliberately fail in this obligation commit a grave sin.
  - 2182 Participation in the communal celebration of the Sunday Eucharist is a testimony of belonging and of being faithful to Christ and to his Church. The faithful give witness by this to their communion in faith and charity. Together they testify to God's holiness and their hope of salvation. They strengthen one another under the guidance of the Holy Spirit.
  - 2183 "If because of lack of a sacred minister or for other grave cause participation in the celebration of the Eucharist is impossible, it is specially recommended that the faithful take part in the Liturgy of the Word if it is celebrated in the parish church or in another sacred place according to the prescriptions of the diocesan bishop, or engage in prayer for an appropriate amount of time personally or in a family or, as occasion offers, in groups of families."

You can find updated information on the diocesan website <https://dol-in.org/response-to-current-news-events>.

Please continue to pray for all those affected by the Coronavirus. Recall that the Coronavirus is not greater than Jesus and will not keep you from heaven. Good counsel we hear from 1 Peter 5:7, “**Cast all your worries upon Him [God] because He cares for you.**”

In Christ,

Fr. Tony Rowland