

from the desk of Fr. David Neuschwander

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Dear Friends,

In light of the changing dynamics of COVID-19 and the most recent requirements issued by state, national and diocesan authorities, our parishes of St. Joseph and St. Ann are implementing the following measures to keep people safe, effective immediately and until further notice:

Events to be cancelled:

1. All weekend and daily Masses, as well as the regularly scheduled Confessions which accompany those Masses (Confessions will now be available by appointment only)
2. Nursing Home Masses and Communion Services, Communion to the Homebound visits – this population is the most susceptible
3. Religious Education Classes
4. Funeral luncheons on church property
5. All parish gatherings or events of 10 people or more

Events to be rescheduled:

1. Fish Fry
2. Rummage Sale
3. Silent Auction/Pancake Breakfast

Stay Up-To-Date

For the most up-to-date information in the days and weeks ahead, please visit the St. Joseph website: stjoseph-hayward.org. As new information is made available and new decisions made, the website will be the first place to look.

Resources for Spiritual Enrichment

- Daily and Weekend Mass Videos:
 - Word on Fire: wordonfire.org/daily-mass
 - CatholicTV Network: watchthemass.com
- St. Joseph and St. Ann weekend homilies of Fr. David, Deacon Brian or Deacon Dave:
 - Fr. David's podcast "Anchored In The Lord" or website: anchoredinthelord.com
- Come pray before Jesus in the tabernacle
 - St. Joseph Church will remain open on weekdays during regular business hours
 - The Adoration Chapel will remain open until further notice (maximum of 2 people in the chapel at a time, please. If it's full, come to the more open Church area to pray)
- Read your Bible, pray the Rosary, pray your favorite devotionals, read a spiritual book
 - Holy water, rosaries and prayer pamphlets available in the St. Joseph Church entrance
- Check out FORMED – basically Catholic Netflix!
 - formed.org/signup – it's as simple as typing "Cathedral of Christ the King" (1410 Baxter Ave, Superior, WI); inputting your name and email address, then clicking "Sign Up"

- Come to Confession!
 - Confessions will be available by appointment, please call your respective church office (who knows, perhaps Confession can kill the Coronavirus).

Other Information:

1. Our parish offices will remain open during their regular hours. If at all possible, however, please use phone, mail or email. At St. Joseph, the main front doors of the Church will be open – all other doors will be locked.
2. Mass Intentions: I will still be celebrating daily Masses privately and fulfilling as many of our regularly scheduled Mass intentions as possible.
3. The local radio station WRLS will still air audio of Mass on Sunday mornings
4. Beware of Scams: a number of scams are taking place as people attempt to use this situation to steal. Remember: no priest or bishop will be asking you for money or gift cards, whether by email, phone or text. THESE ARE SCAMS and I ask that you delete them and not respond.
5. Love Thy Neighbor: During this time of COVID-19 uncertainty and social anxieties, cultivate kindness and compassion. Keep a close eye on your neighbor, especially the elderly and those with compromised immune systems, while at the same time being respectful of the governmental restrictions to limit exposure and the potential spread of the Coronavirus.

Thank you for your patience in these uncertain times. Please continue to hold our people, our healthcare workers and our world in your prayers.

Lent is meant to be a time to shake us out of our normal routine so as to turn to God and listen more closely to the Lord's voice in our lives. We are certainly being shaken out of our routine right now! I pray that all of us may also allow this to become a spiritually fruitful time by intentionally taking this opportunity to pray in new, deeper and perhaps different ways to listen to the Lord's voice anew!

In Christ,

Fr. David

An Act of Spiritual Communion

My Jesus, I believe that You are present in the Most Holy Sacrament.
 I love You above all things, and I desire to receive You into my soul.
 Since I cannot at this moment receive You sacramentally,
 come at least spiritually into my heart.
 I embrace You as if You were already there
 and unite myself wholly to You.
 Never permit me to be separated from You. Amen.

The Catholic Church has long taught about Spiritual Communion, and the Saints have spoken of this as well: *“When you do not receive Communion and you do not attend Mass, you can make a Spiritual Communion, which is a most beneficial practice,”* wrote Saint Teresa of Jesus, *“by it the love of God will be greatly impressed upon you.”* Saint Thomas Aquinas described it as *“an ardent desire to receive Jesus in the Holy Sacrament and a loving embrace as though we had already received him.”*

To make a spiritual Communion, you can pray the prayer above at the time of Communion if you are watching or listening to Mass. You can also pray it as you come to the end of a Rosary, time of prayer, or reading of Scripture.