



March 19, 2020

Dear Parishioners,

As many of you have probably heard by now, on Tuesday Governor Evers issued Emergency Order #5, which prohibits any gatherings of 10 or more people until further notice. In response to this, Bishop Callahan cancelled all public Masses in the Diocese of La Crosse (he had previously already announced that public Masses would be cancelled beginning this Friday, March 20). These both went into effect at 5:00pm March 17, which is why we had to cancel our plans for Adoration and Mass for St. Patrick's Day. We deeply regretted having to do so, but in the interest of public health, we complied.

The restriction on public Masses in our Diocese is currently in place until May 1, 2020. The remainder of Lent, Holy Week, and Easter Sunday fall before that date. We don't yet know what we'll do about that! In the meantime, parishes have been asked to provide times when churches can be open for private prayers and the Sacrament of Reconciliation (Confessions), keeping the number below the threshold of 10 people. At SHSP, we have decided to announce those days and times on a weekly basis, getting the word out through the website (www.shspec.org), Facebook (@shspec), the myParish app, and emails. The Parish Phone greeting will also be updated when possible. (If you do not think we have your email address but would like to receive communications from us in that format, please contact us at office@shspec.org.)

It will be difficult to go without public Masses for so long! We encourage you to continue to hunger for the Eucharist, especially as we fast from it (most penitential Lent ever??). Here are ways that you can feed your spiritual health even when we cannot come together for Mass:

- Read the readings for each Sunday during the week, or even for every day. The readings can easily be found on the US Bishops' website: www.usccb.org, and click on the day on the calendar.
- View Mass being celebrated. Many options are available, including:
 - Diocese of La Crosse has televised Sunday Mass. In Eau Claire it is aired on Channel 18 at 9:30am on Sundays. It can also be viewed on the Diocese's YouTube Channel: www.youtube.com/user/dioceseoflacrosse
 - Daily Mass through Word on Fire from Bishop Barron's Chapel is available online at www.wordonfire.org/daily-mass/ or on the Mass Times page of our parish website.

-Make an Act of Spiritual Communion by praying these words:

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.

-Listen to Relevant Radio either on one of the local stations (107.9 FM or 1050 AM), online at www.relevantradio.com, or on the free Relevant Radio app. Today, they begin a network-wide prayer campaign to help end COVID-19.

Some of you have asked about continuing financial support for the Parish, and honestly, mailing your usual contributions (if you are able) would be great. As long as the mail continues to run, we'll find a way to receive it!

Lastly, as a staff we are currently committed to keeping the Parish Offices open during their usual hours as much as possible. It is still our mission to be available to minister to you, the parishioners, especially during this time of uncertainty and anxiety. Should you feel you need to talk to someone, please call (715-832-0925) or stop in (perhaps call first to confirm someone is here).

May the Lord keep us safe during this time, and may our souls continue to thirst for God! Let us keep each other in prayer.

~ SHSP Parish Staff