

**Effective at 8pm today, by order of Bishop Frank Caggiano, ALL public Masses (weekday and weekend) are temporarily suspended until Friday April 3<sup>rd</sup>. This will be confirmed, or a revision of that date will be posted on March 31<sup>st</sup>. Additionally, the parish office and chapel will be closed through April 3<sup>rd</sup>.**

**This decision was made considering the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has recommended that all in-person gatherings of 50 people or more be cancelled or postponed for the next 8 weeks. Governor Lamont today followed that directive and has limited crowds to less than 50 in the State of Connecticut.**

**This decision was not made easily, and the Bishop realizes that some may disagree with it. However, this is an extraordinary- and, in some ways, unprecedented- time in the life of the Church, the country and the world, and it requires extraordinary action to ensure the safety of all parishioners and staff.**

**Beginning this Sunday, Sunday Mass celebrated by Bishop Caggiano or Monsignor Powers will be available on the Diocesan Website (<https://www.bridgeportdiocese.org/>) or on Diocesan social media channels (<https://www.bridgeportdiocese.org/dobsocial/home/>).**

**Regarding the Anointing of the Sick and the Sacrament of Reconciliation - On Wednesday the Bishop will send me more information. Until then, I am allowed to offer them only as requested and therefore I am canceling the Day of Reconciliation planned for March 17<sup>th</sup>.**

**Regarding weddings and funerals- These may continue to be celebrated but the Rite is to be celebrated outside of Mass and is limited to immediate family members and close friends only and the number attending must be less than 50 people.**

**A public memorial Mass can be celebrated later, and I will celebrate a private Mass for the Dead as near to the date of death as possible.**

**I know this is a most troubling development, but we must remain strong in our Faith and Hope in Jesus Christ. He is always with us and will see us through this Coronavirus pandemic. Let us all pray for one another and for this virus to passover soon.**

**I will have our church open for private prayer each day from 8am to 6pm.**