



St. Boniface Church

375 East Church Street • Sublimity, Oregon 97385 • (503) 769-5664

March 17, 2020

Dear Members of St. Boniface Church:

As you may have heard, Governor Kate Brown has issued an order prohibiting all gatherings of more than 25 people in an effort to curb further transmission of the Coronavirus (COVID – 19). In response to this new requirement, Archbishop Sample has announced the cancellation of all public Masses, beginning today, and running through April 14, 2020. The Archbishop has also dispensed all Catholics within the Archdiocese from the obligation to attend Mass on Sundays and Holy Days of Obligation during this time. A copy of the Archbishop's letter and his Decree is enclosed.

Please know that your health and wellbeing, both physical and spiritual, are my highest priority and concern. In this regard, I encourage all of you to take appropriate steps to safeguard yourself against the Coronavirus. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has recommended that we all wash our hands frequently, avoid contact with those who are sick, and keep a safe distance between ourselves and others. More information about preventative care can be found at the CDC's website: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prepare/prevention.html>

Unfortunately we are not going to be able to gather as a community to celebrate the Eucharist with one another for the next four weeks. Most disheartening is that this includes not sharing Holy Week and Easter together. However, I still want to provide ways for you to continue to grow in your spiritual life. Indeed, during this time in particular I hope that all of us will turn even more to our Lord, who always seeks to be very close to us.

While you will not be able to be present at Mass during this time, you will be able to participate by watching Mass on television or online. EWTN's televises Mass at 5:00 am, 9:00 am, 4:00 pm, and 9:00 pm most days. Sunday Mass times are 5:00 am, 9:00 am, and 9:00 pm. You will also be able to find other Masses streaming online. If you are not able to watch Mass on tv or online, I encourage you to read the scripture readings for each Sunday. Those readings can be found online at: <http://www.usccb.org/bible/>. In addition, you can indicate your desire to receive Holy Communion by saying the following prayer:

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.

I am hopeful that we can all use this time to deepen our commitment to the Lord and grow closer to our God. Spending some time each day in prayer, thanking God for all of the blessings we have received will certainly help us be more united to God. It will also allow us to more fully follow the promptings of the Holy Spirit in our lives. Likewise, we can also benefit from other spiritual activities including scripture reading, praying the rosary, fasting, and other devotional practices. Many people have found the website Formed.org as a valuable resource for spiritual reading and information. Other websites that you may find helpful include: ewtn.com; wordonfire.org; the Word Among Us website is wau.org; the Our Sunday Visitor website is osv.com; and the Magnificat website is magnificat.com.

The Coronavirus is going to require us all to live a bit differently in the coming weeks, as we do our part to minimize the effect of the virus on our family, friends, and wider community. At times we may feel a range of emotions, from frustration caused by restrictions on our normal routines, to fear of perhaps becoming ill, and even sadness as we miss our parish community and receiving our Lord in Holy Communion. With all of our emotions, cares, and concerns, we offer them to the Lord who provides peace that only comes from Him. We also remain confident in the Father's loving concern for each one of us.

This will certainly be a Lenten Season we will not soon forget. Please know that I am praying for you, and that while we won't be together in person over these coming weeks, we are united in the Holy Spirit. Please be assured that I will continue to offer my private Mass each day for all of you.

Lastly, should you find yourself in need of any assistance over the coming weeks, please contact the parish office and let us know how we can be of help. You are part of a loving parish community and we are all here for you.

Sincerely Yours in Christ,

Father Paul Materu



Administrator, St. Boniface Church

P.S. We would like to be able to communicate with you by email or text in the future. If you are willing, please provide us with your email and cell phone number. Thank you.

Name: _____

Email: _____

Cell Phone: _____