

## Statement by Fr. Gary Pennings, Pastor

**Public Celebration of Masses Cancelled:** In conjunction with the Catholic bishops of Kansas, effective 1pm, March 17<sup>th</sup>, 2020 and until further notice, all public celebrations of the Holy Mass in the Archdiocese of Kansas City in Kansas are cancelled except for funeral Masses. The Archbishop issues this declaration on Tuesday morning March 17<sup>th</sup>. See the Archdiocesan statement at <https://archkcks.com/coronavirus> .

**Daily Mass:** Fr. Gary will continue to celebrate daily Mass privately at 8am, M-F, for the intention listed in the bulletin and for all the parishioners of Queen of the Holy Rosary- Wea. However, those Masses will not be open to the public, only the sacred ministers and a few assisting ministers will be in attendance. We are working with our parish staff and volunteers to put capability in place to live stream or in some other way broadcast Masses so that those who wish to participate virtually may do so.

**Sunday Mass:** Fr. Gary will celebrate one Mass on Sunday at 9:30am. The same restrictions as listed above will apply. Efforts are currently underway to provide live stream capability or some other means of broadcast. The dispensation from the obligation to attend Sunday Mass remains in effect. Please check the parish website often for updates. Website: [qhrwea.church](http://qhrwea.church)

**Church and Parish Office/School Building:** The church building will be open to the public from 9:00am to 7pm daily for private prayer. At no time are more than fifty people permitted to be in the church at any one time. Fr. Gary prefers the number of individuals in the church to be ten or less and people, not living in the same household, should sit at least six feet apart. The parish office and school building will be closed to the public until further notice. Parish staff will work from home when possible.

**Confessions:** Confessions will continue to be offered on Wednesday evenings during Lent at 6pm; also, on Friday mornings at 7:40am and on Saturdays at 3:00pm. Confessions must take place behind the confessional screen and no face to face confessions in the confessional will be available until this situation is resolved.

**Funerals:** Funerals will be celebrated, but there will be strict limits on the number who can attend. The parish will not host any funeral luncheons until this crisis passes. More details are provided in the official statement by the Archbishop. No one who is showing signs of illness should attend funerals.

**Baptisms:** Baptisms will be celebrated, but there is a limit on the number who may attend, see the Archdiocesan statement for more details.

**Weddings:** Engaged couples who have weddings scheduled in the next few months should consider rescheduling. If weddings are celebrated there will be strict limits on the number who may attend. No one who is showing signs of illness should attend weddings. For more information contact the parish office at 913-533-2464

**Sick Calls:** Fr. Gary will make sick calls to those who are seriously ill, and of course to those who are dying. He encourages people who are sick to call him before they go to the hospital or before they are scheduled for surgery. The parish emergency contact line is: 913-276-0617

**School and Daycare:** At the direction of Laura Kelly, Governor of Kansas, school "as we know it" will be closed for the remainder of the 2019- 2020 school year. Plans for remote instruction are already in place. Mr. Antista, our school principal, will be in communication with parents of QHR-Wea students to provide more details. Information on the status of Angel House daycare will be forthcoming.

**Perpetual Adoration:** Adoration will continue, but Fr. Gary asks that not more than two people from different households be in the adoration chapel at one time. Disinfecting wipes will be available to wipe down surfaces between adorers.

**Parish Meetings:** No meetings, other than meetings among staff or prearranged meetings with Fr. Gary should be scheduled. All church or parish organization sponsored events scheduled to be held at the parish in the near future should be cancelled or postponed indefinitely.

**Financial Support:** Parishioners are encouraged to mail in their weekly offerings or go to the website and sign up for online giving. Despite the emergency closures, most parish expenses, salaries, utilities and other expenses continue. Please continue to donate so that the parish can pay the bills and avoid a financial crisis on top of everything else that is going on. Parish staff is making efforts to economize where possible.

**Pray, Pray, Pray:** This crisis will pass. In the meantime, remember God is still in charge and our faith tells us that He can bring good even from difficult situations. Families are encouraged to deepen their commitment to prayer and to consider praying the rosary as a family every day, asking Mary, Queen of the Holy Rosary, to intercede to bring an end to this pandemic and to increase the faith of all parishioners in these troubling times.