

## Coronavirus Action Update

On March 12, 2020, Bishop Zubik issued some official guidance on parish activities in response to the coronavirus, most notably:

- The Eucharist, especially on Sunday, and the sacraments will always be at the heart of our belief, and the faithful need to have access to them to the greatest extent possible. We will continue to follow guidelines previously issued on hygiene and the celebration of Mass and the sacraments.
- However, following a joint conference call with all the bishops of Pennsylvania, effective immediately and until further notice, Bishop Zubik is dispensing the faithful of the Diocese of Pittsburgh from the obligation to attend Sunday Mass.
- Despite the suspension of the obligation to attend Sunday Mass, all regularly scheduled Masses will remain open to the public for those who wish to attend.
- Religious education is essential, and we will keep schools and faith formation open to the extent possible, but will work to be in concert with local communities and school districts in regard to closing these if necessary.
- Non-essential diocesan gatherings of 50 people or more are cancelled **starting Monday, March 16<sup>th</sup>**. Parishes and schools are encouraged to assess the need for larger gatherings as well. These include the Bishop's diocesan listening sessions.
- In a separate communication, the Vicar General of the diocese also asked that all fish fries go to take-out only, or cancel.

In response to this guidance, we will be taking the following actions:

- All the faithful are released from any obligation to attend Sunday Mass.
- Our Fish Fry at Assumption will serve take-out orders only.
- Our CCD and Good Shepherd programs are currently still operating, but we ask that you follow your own common sense regarding your child's health. The programs will follow closure decisions of the school districts that they serve.
- Our final of three parish listening sessions/ town halls scheduled for St. John Neumann at 6:30 tonight, has been postponed indefinitely.
- Our Parish Mission with Megan McKenna, scheduled for March 22, 24, 25 has been cancelled.
- Our Confirmation Retreat, scheduled for March 28<sup>th</sup> has been cancelled.

Bishop Zubik notes it is most important that we increase our personal prayer and fasting as we look to God as our strength in this critical time.

Please visit <https://bellworthparkcc.org/coronavirus> for the latest information.