

Dear Parishioners of St. Paul:

May the Peace of Christ be with you!

Today, the Feast of St. Patrick, the Archdiocese of Hartford has put into effect further precautions during this health emergency related not only to the celebration of weekday and weekend Masses, but other Sacraments and liturgical functions. Also, included in this update is how we at St. Paul Parish are implementing these measures for the health and well being of all people.

Masses

As was announced yesterday, March 16th, the PUBLIC celebration of ALL Masses has been cancelled at least through April 3rd.

While the public celebration of Masses has been cancelled please know that Frs. Michael, Raymond and I will continue to offer Mass privately and all of the Mass intentions that have been requested will be satisfied. The weekday Mass intentions will be satisfied on the day they were scheduled for while some of the Sunday Masses will have to be satisfied during the week. Fr. Michael and I will con-celebrate a private Mass each morning and that Mass will be able to be viewed either live or later in the day at your convenience. On Sunday we will also con-celebrate a private Mass which will also be available to be viewed either live or later in the day. Fr. Raymond will satisfy some of the Sunday Mass intentions while saying Mass in the Friary Chapel.

Streaming of Masses from St. Paul Church

Sunday - 8 a.m. live and then able to be viewed anytime after the Mass is finished.

Monday - Friday - 7 a.m. live and then able to be viewed anytime after the Mass is finished.

Mass on TV

The Archdiocese's Office of Radio and Television broadcasts Mass each day at 10 a.m. on WCCT-TV (WB20) and WCTX-TV (MyTV9). On Saturday and Sunday it may also be viewed at 5 a.m. on WCCT. The Archdiocesan Mass can also be found streaming live at these same times on <http://www.ortv.org/streaming/streaming.htm>.

Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick & Last Rites

If you or a family member is in need of the Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick, the Friars **should** still be called and we will minister to you or them. Please call the office (860-828-0331) or send one of us an email: frjoseph@stpaulkensington.org or frmichael@stpaulknesington.org.

In this situation, or at any time, you are highly encouraged not to wait until the last moment to call for a priest to come and visit.

Sacrament of Reconciliation (Penance) - Confessions

Pastorally it is important that the faithful not be denied access to the Sacrament of Penance. What is scheduled at parishes during Lent should continue to be offered, but only with individual confessions and no penance services. Every precaution should be taken to ensure social

distancing between priest and penitent, preferably with a screen between them rather than face to face.

Therefore, here at St. Paul's we will continue our regular schedule of confessions. **Confessions will continue to be heard on Saturdays from 8:30 to 9:30 a.m. and 3:00 to 4:00 p.m. The Mercy Mondays will also continue during the remaining Mondays of Lent (March 23, 30 & April 6) as well as Tuesday, April 7 from 7 p.m. to 8 p.m. The Mercy Mondays will continue to include adoration of the Blessed Sacrament.**

Funerals

ALL funeral Masses are also suspended at this time. Wake services at funeral homes are not recommended. Grave side services will be permitted, but participation should be limited to immediate family and close friends. A Mass for the repose of the soul of the deceased, as provided for in the Roman Missal, can be added to the parish Mass intentions and offered as soon as reasonably possible under the circumstances, or, if the family desires, a public celebration of this Mass at a later date can be contemplated. The funeral homes that usually have funerals here have been informed.

Baptisms

If parents would rather not delay the Baptism of their child, it may take place in church, but participants should be as limited as possible in keeping with the limits established by the civil authorities. Parents who have baptisms scheduled will be contacted by the parish secretary.

Weddings

The celebration of weddings may continue if the couple does not wish to reschedule, but without Mass. Participation should be regulated in keeping with the limits established by the civil authorities. Thankfully, we do not have any weddings until late June.

Times that our churches will be open

St. Paul's will be open as follows:

Sundays 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.; Mondays 8 a.m. to 8 p.m.; Tuesday - Friday 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. & Saturdays 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Sacred Heart Church will be open on Sundays from 9 to 11 a.m. and Wednesdays 5 to 7 p.m.

Parish Office Hours - Monday to Friday 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Other Religious Services

All other Services, including Tuesday Holy Hour and Stations of the Cross, are cancelled.

Activities in the Parish

All parish organization meetings are cancelled at least through April 3rd.

The Red Cross cancelled the Blood Drive sponsored by the Knights for Thursday, March 19.

Foodshare distribution will take place on Friday, March 20 at Sacred Heart Church.

Alcoholics Anonymous cancelled their meetings scheduled for March 20 & 27.

Lenten Reflection Series sessions for March 22 & 26 are cancelled.

Scripture Study sessions through at least April 3 are cancelled/postponed.

The School Auction is tentatively re-scheduled for May 16th.
The Knights of Columbus Polish Dinner is postponed until a yet undetermined date.
All weekly Youth Ministry events are canceled. Information about the Steubenville Retreat will be forthcoming.

To read the entire statement from the Archdiocese [click here](#).

**O holy Mother of God; despise not our petitions in our necessities,
but deliver us from all dangers, O glorious and blessed Virgin Mary. Amen.
May the Divine assistance remain always with us!**

Peace and All Good,

Fr. Joe