

The Parishes of Grouping 101:

All Saints
19 Wilson St.
Pgh, PA 15223
412-781-0530

St. Bonaventure
2001 Mt. Royal Blvd.
Glenshaw, PA 15116
412-486-2606

Holy Spirit
608 Farragut St.
Pgh, PA 15209
412-821-4424

St. Aloysius
3616 Mt. Troy Rd.
Pgh, PA 15212
412-821-2351

Each a Pennsylvania Charitable Trust

On Friday, March 13, 2010, Fr. Gretz gathered together the Clergy Team, the Advisory Council, and local officials concerning the COVID-19 and its implications to our community and our faith life. Realizing the fluidity of the situation, the following issues and preparations were made:

COMMUNITY

- **Social Distancing.** This concept is about keeping space between people. It is also related to gatherings of people.
 - Many of our parish organizations have cancelled their meetings or fund-raising events. Each organization will be in touch with its membership.
 - Those outside organizations who have chosen to rent our properties for their purposes do so at their own risk. We are unable to assure adequate cleaning between events.
 - Finally, we are exploring ways to disinfect our buildings in the safest and most economical way possible.
- **Social Concern.** While we are keeping a distance from others, there still needs to be concern for the elderly and those who need attention. We encourage you to look out for neighbors and friends who are more susceptible to disease. You might want to offer them food or even a call just checking in on them.
- **Sources of Information.** In this modern age, there is a lot of disinformation out there. We suggest that you consult known sources of information, such as:
<https://www.cdc.gov> <https://www.alleghenycounty.us/healthdepartment/index.aspx>
<http://www.diopitt.org> <http://www.egmcatholic.org> <http://www.etnaborough.org>
<http://www.shaler.org> <http://millvalePA.com> <http://www.ReserveTwp.com>
- **Community Centers.** We were informed that community centers were being closed down. This may eventually spread to libraries. In the midst of the meeting, Governor Wolf closed public schools and Bishop Zubik closed Catholic Schools. Residents are asked that as tax bills arrive, please pay them via the USPS or secured drop boxes rather than in person.
- **First responders.** We have to be concerned for our first responders, as they are on the front lines of encounter. Emergencies will be handled. However, you may be asked to step outside of the house or respond to other precautions offered by police, fire fighters, EMS, etc.
- **Stores.** We are grateful to our local supermarkets and stores who are doing what they can to keep us safe and provide for our needs. We encourage people to not be self-centered hoarders when making purchases.

WORSHIP

- **Mass.** While Bishop Zubik has suspended the obligation to attend Mass on Sundays, there will still be the regular schedule of Masses until instructed otherwise.
- **Safety Precautions.** We remind you that the Sign of Peace and reception of the Precious Blood were temporarily eliminated for your safety. We also encourage people to receive communion in a

very open hand rather than on the tongue. This is an added safety precaution for you, the minister, and those in line after you.

- **In Case of Mass Cancellation.** Most fluid in this situation is attending Mass in general. Our buildings have not yet been closed. Should we reach that situation, we are working on ways to either live-stream Mass or at least post recordings of them on our website (egmcatholic.org). The Priests will assure that Mass intentions of Masses will still be fulfilled privately. We also remind you of the tradition of Spiritual Communion - <https://www.ewtn.com/catholicism/devotions/act-of-spiritual-communion-339>.
- **Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament.** Again, at present the chapel at SBP is still open. Should we be forced to close, provisions will be made. The Blessed Sacrament would be placed at the side entrance (plaza doors) of SBP as well as the main entrance of SAP. Both spaces have glass doors that allow our Eucharistic Lord to be seen without being in an enclosed space.
- **Sacraments.**
 - At present, all sessions of **confessions** remain in place. We have regard for the safety of Priest in that enclosed environment. At present the seasonal “Light is On for You” on April 1, 2020 is still taking place.
 - **Baptisms** will still be taking place. We ask that families limit the number of people who gather with you.
 - We will leave **communion to the homebound** up to the recipient and the minister to decide.
 - Priests will still be available for emergency **Anointing of the Sick**.
 - Dates for **First Confession, First Communions** as well as **Confirmation** remain in place.
- **Holy Week.** At present, the Sacred Triduum will be taking place.

GOVERNANCE

- **Finances.** One of the issues with the obligation to attend Mass being removed or cancelled altogether is the financial needs of the parish. There are still salaries and bills to be paid. We ask that you mail your contribution or drop it off in the rectory mail slots. It is also possible to contribute through your bank with on-line bill pay. There are no fees involved unlike with Faith Direct. In case there are great financial needs, we will be sharing our resources with each other to get us through any crisis that may arise.
- **Communication.** We have come to realize that the information we have available to us through our census programs is inadequate. We don’t have current email addresses or cellphone numbers. We will be working on a way to create a form to share with you that has the information we currently have on hand. You will be asked to update your information and return it to us.
 - It was also noted that rumors spread like wildfire whereas pertinent information is slow to travel. We ask your assistance in conveying timely information to other parishioners who may not have access to social media.
- **Offices.** At the moment, Parish Offices will maintain their current hours. That could change as time passes.

EDUCATION

- In the midst of the meeting we learned of the temporary closure of the Shaler Area School District as well as Catholic schools, which included the Faith Formation (CCD) programs at our parishes.
- We encourage you to educate yourself on proper protocols in the midst of this crisis: wash your hands; cover your mouth with your elbow or a tissue when your cough or sneeze; if you feel ill, stay home. These commonsense things can go a long way to protecting us all.