

Pastor's Note – St Henry Parish – Gresham OR – March 18, 2020

Blessings to all parishioners! As we hunker down under the threat of COVID-19, our parish and parishioners continue to pray for one another and reach out. On March 16, our archbishop canceled all Masses in our parishes. The mandate follows upon a nationwide closure of any venues that gather in excess of 10-25 people. This is in effect in our archdiocese until April 14th. That means that Holy Week and Easter services are suspended this year.

My note today will list how our parish will respond during this difficult time. To be consistent, all events and gatherings are canceled. That includes RCIA classes, youth ministry, faith formation, penance service, rentals and organizations, etc. Our church and parish center and gym will be closed during the duration. To avoid contracting or spreading the virus, we are suspending care ministry to homes and care facilities. For the time being, the Ministers of Holy Communion will discontinue the loving practice of bringing communion to the homebound. We wish to connect with folks through all the electronic media available besides the weekly bulletin. The bulletin will be available at the office and at a drop box in the church's east breezeway, the more common entryway. Additionally there will be numerous messages and updates on Flocknotes, Facebook, Twitter, and our parish website (www.sthenrygresham.org). Starting March 22nd, there will be a weekly Mass available through our website. Fr. Julio and Fr Charles will concelebrate Mass and give a weekly message, and will offer spiritual communion for our parishioners. This will be available for viewers on Sunday each week. Additionally, our vicariate pastors have met to coordinate best practices. Here are some bullets relating to this time of "adjustment."

- Our parish office is closed. Clergy and staff will be checking in.
- Our church and parish center and gym are closed.
- Please call if you have a request or need an appointment. 503-665-9129
- During the archbishop's mandate suspending public Masses, the ripple effect also suspends home visits for the Ministers of Holy Communion.
- Confession times are suspended. Stations of the Cross and Holy Hour are canceled.
- The adoration chapel will remain open, but please restrict to three in the chapel at one time.
- All areas are sanitized after usage.
- Check the parish website for any updates and for the weekly Mass.
- Utilities in both the church and parish center and gym, are lowered to a minimum.
- We need to limit entry to our buildings. All who have keys to the church and parish center and gym, are asked to return them. They will be returned when the situation has passed.
- The various staff and catechists will connect by phone and electronically with their constituents. That includes faith formation, RCIA, youth ministry, sacramental preparation, Hispanic ministry groups, liturgy, care ministry, renters, St Vincent de Paul Society, Knights of Columbus, Catholic Daughters, adult education, scripture groups, choirs, etc.
- The Thursday Day Shelter and St. Vincent de Paul Pantry will serve boxed food and lunches at the door.
- The economic effects on our parish and families are considerable. Please continue your parish contributions even though we have no Mass or offertory collection.
- Vanco is our online giving site. (www.sthenrygresham.org/offertory-support-during-these-difficult-times-1)

Envelopes can be dropped through our office door slot.



Let us walk this road together, much like the disciples on the road with Jesus to Emmaus after the Resurrection. Let us recognize Jesus in one another, and may we be watchful of one another's needs. The pope has asked everyone to pause for a moment and say a prayer for global health. In Christ Jesus, **Fr Charles, Fr Julio, Deacons Larry, Deacon Lou and Staff**