

# St. Mary's Catholic Church

March 18, 2020

Dear St. Mary's Parishioners,

It is with a heavy heart but also with confidence in Jesus Christ, that I am writing to inform you that our Bishop has decided to cancel all public Masses as of today and for an indefinite period of time, due to the spread and the dangers of the Novel Coronavirus. Along with Fr. Dave, Fr. Ben, Fr. Paul, Deacon Jim and Br. Leland, I am personally very concerned about all of you, and especially our most vulnerable.

**Please take a few minutes to read Bishop Paprocki's letter and guidelines (continued updates at <https://www.dio.org/coronavirus>)**. They are important and manifest his concern and the Church's concern for us, as well as provide hope and possibilities for us to draw closer to Jesus and one another.

While all public Masses are canceled and our obligation to attend Sunday Mass is suspended, it is important we maintain and indeed bolster our faith life. In addition to healthy practices in regard to the virus, it is our Faith in God that will see us through.

## What we can do together

- St. Mary's Church will remain open for prayer.
- Confessions will be available at the normal times and by appointment.
- We are using our Facebook Page for various streaming media. Follow us by searching for "St. Mary's Catholic Church and School"  
<https://www.facebook.com/stmarysalton/>.
  - Streaming Mass: The live-stream Mass schedule will be sent out in the next day or two.
  - Rosary: this past Monday, we began a daily live-streamed Rosary at 5:30pm. Please join us for that.
- We are discussing other options as well, so please stay tuned.

The Internet will become our virtual parish for some time to come, and as we live through this time of social distancing, these online means of communication provide a very real way to grow in unity as a parish family.

Please continue to pray, and remain in contact with us and each other in ways that are safe and prudent. Please be especially attentive to the elderly and vulnerable among us. We must do all we are able to stick together as a parish family, because this is a large part of what will see us through this great trial.

## One Body in Christ

While the internet is a virtual connection, and is very helpful, we must not forget that we are members of the Body of Christ through our Baptism. We are his and we belong to him. This reality is even deeper than the relationship of flesh and blood!

St. Paul writes in his First Letter to the Corinthians:

“<sup>12</sup> For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ. <sup>13</sup> For in one Spirit we were all baptized into one body—Jews or Greeks, slaves or free—and all were made to drink of one Spirit. <sup>14</sup> For the body does not consist of one member but of many. <sup>25</sup> that there may be no division in the body, but that the members may have the same care for one another. <sup>26</sup> If one member suffers, all suffer together; if one member is honored, all rejoice together. <sup>27</sup> Now you are the body of Christ and individually members of it.”  
(1Cor 12:12-14, 25 -27)

We are Christ's Body! What we are living through, will by his grace, help us to live more fully as members of it.

This is my prayer for us all.

God bless you,

Fr. Jeremy, OMV and the St. Mary's Pastoral Staff

P.S. If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to email me at [frjeremy@stmarysalton.com](mailto:frjeremy@stmarysalton.com).