

MESSAGE FROM MSGR MOELLENBERNDT (March 15, 2020)

So, we are going to maintain the usual Sunday Mass schedule here at Sacred Hearts as well as the usual daily morning Masses at this point. Obviously with the obligation to attend Mass lifted for the weekend Masses, it is your decision whether to attend or not according to the Bishop's Decree. Bishop has encouraged those with compromised immune systems, the elderly as well as families with young children to think strongly about not attending. However, the Bishop has lifted the obligation to attend Mass for everyone. It is difficult to know what to do in this situation and difficult for the parish to make decisions.

However, much of daily life in the parish will change. To that end we will not have the talk by Bishop Hying on Tuesday (3/17) or the Eucharistic Day next Sunday afternoon (3/22). The parish school is also closed as of this Monday. Christian Formation classes, Bible study groups here in the parish and our choir rehearsals are also suspended at this time. We will suspend Benediction and Stations of the Cross on Friday evenings as well as Adoration on Monday afternoons. The Masses and Communion visits at all nursing homes and health care facilities are suspended by the facilities themselves.

As the Diocese has said we need to do what we can to mitigate the spread of this disease and to protect people from that spread. The idea is to not have people congregate and to be overly prudent and cautionary. We think not only of our own health but of the health of those around us. We might not have symptoms but could still pass the virus on to others. We can't continue life as usual. This is the point our Diocese is making and we want to follow this to the best of our

ability. With confirmed cases here in Sun Prairie including cases at another Sun Prairie church we need to make difficult decisions. It is very hard to know what to do.

The decisions we have made are the best as far as we know at this point and the most prudent to safeguard the health of people which is our number one concern. These decisions have been made in consultation with a variety of people including our neighboring parish St. Albert here in Sun Prairie. That parish is also doing as we are doing here at Sacred Hearts. The decisions have not been made easily or lightly I can assure you of that fact. Never did I think in my priesthood that I would ever be dealing with anything like this. I would also mention the livestreaming of Masses will be available here at Sacred Hearts shortly.

We continue to rely on the love of God and are assured that He is with us during these difficult times. We will get through this challenge for we are the Body of Christ who know the Risen Jesus gives us ultimate hope. If life is not as usual we can still pray for one another and care for one another.