

Dear parents, children and catechists,

The safety of our parish family has and will continue to be our number one priority. Archbishop Sample released a statement on Monday (see attached) in which he sadly made the decision to cancel all Masses and parish activities until April 14th, which means we will not be celebrating Holy Week or Easter at the parish. We have no way of knowing if the coronavirus will be contained at that time, so our immediate future is uncertain. One thing we do know is God is and has always been sovereign and we should continually will ourselves to trust in him.

All classes and meetings are canceled through April 14th at which time we will reassess what would be prudent as to our gathering together. The next few weeks will be a time for us to come together in our small family units and care for each other. Be sure to stay in contact with your relatives, neighbors, especially anyone elderly that may be isolated. A personal phone call has the power to uplift the spirits of another.

This is also a time for our fruits to shine. Those gifts of charity, patience, kindness, goodness, forbearance, mildness. Luke 3:11 says *“whoever has two tunics (coats) should share with the person who has none. And whoever has food should do likewise.”* Don't get caught up in fear and hoarding. Buy only what you need and share what you have in surplus. We are a community of believers and our commandment has always been to *“Love one another”*.

Practically, parents should take time to share the gospel each evening with your children and continue to mold them into disciples of Jesus.

Baptisms originally planned for the Easter Vigil will be rescheduled at a later date.

Those children that have prepared for First Reconciliation will be given the opportunity to meet with Fr. Jorge during the week of April 1st. We will be contacting you for individual appointments.

First Communion class will meet to prepare our banners and review the year. Dates will be determined as directions roll down from the Archdiocese.

Confirmation candidates need to continue reviewing your textbooks. I would focus on page 100 which summarize the gifts and fruits of the Spirit. We have note been requested to change the date of confirmation at this time but that is a possibility.

We look forward to joining again as community as soon as safely possible.

Blessings

Jim DeLong, Director of Faith Formation
Holy Redeemer Catholic Church