

March 13, 2020

Statement from Father Vu in Responding to COVID-19 (Coronavirus) Epidemic

Dear Parishioners of St. Barnabas and Our Lady of Lourdes:

In this moment of international health crisis and challenging times to the Church – we must intensify our prayer and hope in the Lord and be patient and flexible for the good of the common good. This crisis will impact our lives and the way we live, work, worship, recreation, and socialize. My highest priority now is to celebrate Mass, hear confession, anointing the sick, and administer Viaticum (Last Rites) to parishioners who are in most critical condition in hospitals as allowed by these facilities and local authority to travel.

As of this date, weekend Mass and confession times remain the same and will be celebrated as scheduled – unless we are being instructed otherwise by Bishop Baker. The focus now is to participate in the holy sacrifice of the Mass, receive Holy Communion (on tongue or on hand as discretion of the communicant), and to go home immediately after Mass for our safety. Weddings and funerals will be celebrated as allowed by the local Bishop. The parish church will remain open every day from 7am-7pm for private prayer and devotion. Please no large group gathering in the church other than Mass.

Effective, Monday, March 16, weekday Masses are as follows:

- Monday 8:30am - at St. Barnabas
- Tuesday 7pm (Spanish) - at Our Lady of Lourdes
- Wednesday 7pm - at St. Barnabas
- Thursday 8:30am - at Our Lady of Lourdes
- Friday 8:30am (School Mass) - at St. Barnabas

For public safety of all parishioners, I hereby am suspending and postponing these activities till further notice:

1. No Family Catechesis Faith Formation or Meal
2. No Stations of the Cross and Lenten meals
3. No Bible Study
4. No Senior Events
5. No Group Meetings (Legion of Mary, Associates of Notre Dame, Knights of Columbus, Hispanic...)
6. No Activities in Our Lady of Lourdes' Gym after 6p.m. (effective March 16 till further notice)
7. No Youth Meetings

Till this health crisis is over, I will not make any new appointments with parishioners unless it is for the sacraments and urgent needs (confession, anointing of the sick, Viaticum, family emergency). You can email me (fatherdougvu@gmail.com) or call the parish's number if you need to talk to me. I will avoid unnecessary travels to reduce the risk of being contracted by this virus in order that I can remain healthy to serve all of you and your spiritual needs during this time.

I will monitor the development of this epidemic and inform you of information I receive from the diocese and health officials. Thank you for your prayer, understanding, and support of me during this difficult time in the world and in the Church. Let us pray for healing for all who have been affected by this virus and for the cure of this virus. May the Lord bless and protect us in this difficult time. Our Lady of Lourdes and Saint Barnabas, pray for us!

In Christ,

Reverend Douglas M. Vu
Pastor