

St. William of York Catholic Church

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March 20, 2020

Dear Parishioners of Saint William of York,

On behalf of the clergy and staff, I ask that we all join together as a parish family in prayer, fasting, and almsgiving during this unprecedented time in all of our lives. Lent is a time for renewed appreciation of our need for God's care, and this public health crisis brings that home in a powerful way.

As you most likely know by now, Bishop Burbidge has suspended all public Masses and devotions such as Stations of the Cross until further notice. However, *please rest assured that all of our parish Masses will be offered in private by Father Lino and me, for the intentions assigned to them.*

Beginning Monday, March 23rd, Saint William of York Church will remain open for private prayer every day from 7:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. Entrance will be only from the front doors of the church. Please remember that there should be no more than 10 people in the church at once. So, please be mindful of people waiting outside for a turn to pray.

From Wednesday, March 25th, until Saturday, April 4th, confessions at Saint William of York Church will follow the schedule immediately below:

- Wednesday: 9:30 a.m. to 10:30 a.m.
- Friday: 9:30 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. *and* 6:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.
- Saturday: 9:30 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. *and* 6:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

Again, entrance will be only from the front doors of the church. To preserve the recommended distance, confessions will be heard not in the confessionals but in the sacristies. We will have volunteers on hand to give directions, and to ensure the 10-person limit and social distancing.

We are trying to maintain parish and school operations as fully as possible. Though Saint William of York is closed, our teachers are teaching our students at home via eLearning. Therefore, I humbly ask you to please sustain your weekly offerings during this time by mailing them to the parish, by dropping them in the three offertory boxes located at the foot of the altar, by bringing them by the parish office from 9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., or through online giving (information is available on our parish website). *Your generous support is vital to your parish's mission, now more than ever. I cannot stress this enough.*

With kindest regards, I remain

Faithfully yours in Christ,

Rev. Robert J. DeMartino
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