

Dear Friends,

I cannot tell you how wonderful our staff is always, and has been especially during these most challenging of times. Neal Armstrong, Kayla Dittmer, Alita Nichols, Jose Gomez, and Tom and Alyson Mauk are exceptionally fine folks to work with every day. Father Lino certainly put it very well yesterday, when speaking of them privately to me, he remarked: “They are our family.”

A few moments ago the Chancery informed me that, out of respect for Governor Northam's Executive Order 55, they will be testing their ability to have all employees work from home tomorrow and Thursday in the event that further restrictions are made in the near future. Over the past week, the Chancery has only required essential personnel to work from the office while all others have been working from home.

Here at Saint William of York, we've been maintaining our regular parish hours and operations without interruption, while respecting the 10 person limit in the office and wiping down surfaces, as consistently as we can, such as door knobs, chairs, and counter and desk tops.

Following on our lived experience of office life these last two weeks, and after conferring with one another a few moments ago, we have agreed and I have decided to adapt our office to the changing circumstances accordingly.

Starting tomorrow, April 1, in compliance with Executive Order 55, our parish office door will remain closed throughout the day. However, we will still be in the office conducting business as usual, Monday through Friday, from 9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Please feel free to call us at 540-659-1102 and we will be happy to assist you as best as we can.

President Trump has said that the next thirty days will be critical in our fight against the spread of the Coronavirus and that perhaps as many as one million lives might be saved if we are diligent in following the guidelines that the White House and the CDC have been giving us. Let us hope that our efforts to comply with the letter and the spirit of those guidelines will contribute to the timely healing of our people and to the full and joyful restoration of our parish and liturgical life together at Saint William of York.

Now, I send you my blessing through the air. May God grant all of you a very grace-filled afternoon and a calm and restful night.

With kindest regards, as always I remain

Your faithful pastor,

Father DeMartino