

IMPORTANT UPDATE

Dear Friends,

My Easter letter to parishioners went to the printer prior to the outbreak of the Corona virus so I need to do a follow-up to that letter.

Let me begin by sharing what we are doing here at St. Ignatius, Hickory during this time of “social distancing”.

As you know, the Archbishop has suspended all Masses, services and social events in all parishes, so we are not offering public Mass until further notice. Moreover, Faith Formation classes and all parish meetings have been suspended. God-willing these actions along with our following governmental guidelines will help lessen the risk of further contamination. My prayer and hope is like yours ~ that God spare us, and countless fellow citizens from the ravages of this disease.

Here are our plans at this time which will need to change if a “stay at home” order is given by the governor:

- The Historic Church is open Monday thru Friday, 7:30 – 3:30 PM for private prayer. Please sit far from others who may also be in church for meditation and prayer. If you see ten people inside, please step outside and wait until someone leaves. We are trying to disinfect the church daily.
- Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament will continue to take place from 7:00 AM on Sunday until 7:00 AM on Monday. Again, if you attend, please sit as far away from others as possible. No more than ten people in the church at any one time.
- Funerals will continue to take place when needed. The only restriction is that they may be attended by no more than ten people (immediate family only).
- Our weekly bulletin will be online at our parish website: stignatiushickory.org... and a reduced number of printed copies will be available in the Historic Church.
- Every Saturday at 4:30 PM there will be a Mass from St. Ignatius Historic Church on our Parish website for you to view: stignatiushickory.org...

- "Drive-up" Confessions will be held (weather permitting) each Saturday from 2:00 – 4:00 PM around the Grotto area of the Campus.
- Holy Week services open to the public are suspended.
- On Palm Saturday, a Mass for Palm Sunday will be on our website.
- On Holy Thursday, there will be the Mass of the Lord's Last Supper at 4:30 PM on the website for you to view.
- On Good Friday, there will be a Service of the Lord's Passion on the parish website at 4:30 PM
- On Holy Saturday, there will be an Easter Mass on the website at 4:30 PM. The Easter Vigil Mass is cancelled. Those scheduled to be baptized and received into the Church will hopefully be received on Pentecost Sunday at the Noon Mass.
- I encourage parishioners to check the Archdiocesan website: www.archbalt.org for daily Mass and regular updates.
- Please check our website stignatiushickory.org... regularly for updates.

My hope is that through your generosity, (even though not here for Mass), the life of our parish will continue, and we will be able to meet our needs. Not having a regular weekend collection for several months is already having an impact. On Wednesday, March 18th I had a meeting with ten employees putting them on a temporary leave of absence and asked them to apply for temporary unemployment. Since the new Executive Order from Governor Hogan closing non-essential businesses, the Parish Office is now closed and I've had to put the rest of my employees, with the exception of three, on a temporary of leave of absence. I thank you for your generosity and ask you to please use the online giving stignatiushickory.org/..., mail-in your weekly offering or drop it off in the collection box in the Historic Church. I am grateful for your commitment to the parish and the good work the Lord is doing here.

We will remain a family during this stressful time. We are blessed to have our faith in Christ and the Church He founded, we are strengthened by His grace and favor. Let's continue to be sensitive to those who find this time most difficult, being sure that our Christian charity will not be undermined by this virus.

I again wish you Easter Blessings and my prayers,

Sincerely in Christ,

Rev. Msgr. James M. Barker
Pastor

An Act of Spiritual Communion

My Jesus, I believe that You are present in the Most Holy Sacrament.

I love You above all things, and I desire to receive You into my soul.

Since I cannot at this moment receive You sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart. I embrace You as if You were already there and unite myself wholly to You.

Never permit me to be separated from You. Amen.