



The Bemidji Catholic Community Church of St. Philip

702 Beltrami Ave. NW, Bemidji, Minnesota 56601
218-444-4262 | stphilipsbemidji.org | rector@stphilipsbemidji.org

MEMO

To: St. Philip's School Parents and Families

From: Pastor Fr. Chuck Huck and Principal Jana Norgaard, in cooperation with Office of Catholic Schools Director Andrew Hilliker, Minnesota Department of Education and ISD31

Date: March 15, 2020

RE: Coronavirus (COVID-19) and school closures

Dear St. Philip's Parish Community Member,

Coronavirus is impacting all of us. First, let us rely on our faith to guide our decisions, strengthen our resolve and inspire our compassion for others during these challenging days. We know there is information coming at you from many directions. This message is intended to provide updates directly relevant to our parish, school and community. Visit our website (stphilipsbemidji.org) and follow our Facebook page (@stphilipsBJI).

- **SCHOOL:** Governor Tim Walz and Education Commissioner Mary Cathryn Ricker announced that all Minnesota public schools will close to students starting Wednesday, March 18, 2020 with the plan to resume instruction through distance learning Monday, March 30, 2020.
 - During the school closure for students, St. Philip's School will join ISD-31, school districts and charter schools across the state to create plans to equitably distribute distance learning* to our students should we need to close schools statewide for a longer period of time due to the COVID-19 pandemic.
 - Starting March 30, 2020, per the instruction from the Minnesota Department of Education, **student learning will continue, in some form, for the rest of the school year.**
 - Once the distance learning plan is finalized, we will communicate the plan to families via email and any other means necessary. If your contact information has changed (phone number, email, etc.) it is vital that you let us know. Call the School Office at 218-444-4938 or email sglen1@stphilipsbemidji.org.
- **PARISH:** Please call 218-444-4262 or email rector@stphilipsbemidji.org to update your email address or other contact information, if necessary, so we may keep you apprised of changes including the following:
 - Masses at St. Philip's Church will continue as scheduled. If our priests are unable to say Mass as much notice as possible will be given via electronic media or printed signage.
 - Masses at retirement living facilities are discontinued.
 - The Parish Office will continue operating regular Office Hours (8:30 a.m.-5 p.m.)
 - The church/chapel will be open for prayer during office hours. There will be no scheduled adoration until further notice.
 - Bible studies will be discontinued on campus.

- Fish Fry Dinners are cancelled.
- The Clothing Depot will be closed until April 1.
- Group meetings, programs and activities likely will be canceled. Please call the Parish Office to check on the status of your activity before arriving.
- No new meetings or activities will be scheduled.
- Lenten Soup Luncheons and Sunday coffee and rolls are discontinued.

We recognize that this is an unprecedented and dynamic situation. We will continue to communicate as decisions are made and new information is available. We ask for your patience and prayers for our community as we navigate this challenge together.

**(The Minnesota Department of Education defines distance learning to mean students receive daily interaction with their licensed teachers and appropriate educational materials.)*