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*Most Holy Redeemer Catholic Church*  
*206 Vine Avenue W*  
*Montgomery, Minnesota 56069*

March 19, 2020

Dear Parishioner,

“Trust God at all times, my people! Pour out your hearts to God our refuge (Psalm 62:9)!” Thank you for your patience in these very unusual times as we address details related to the day-to-day operations of Most Holy Redeemer/St. Canice and St. Patrick Catholic Churches. I wish to provide you with an update on our response as a Catholic community to the COVID-19 aka Coronavirus situation which is evolving rapidly. As the parish priest of Most Holy Redeemer/St. Canice and St. Patrick it is my responsibility to work with my superiors in the Archdiocese of St. Paul and Minneapolis to ensure that a unified message and approach is carried out in the handling of all situations related to this public health pandemic when it comes to parish life.

For the duration of this public health emergency the following implementations are being made for the safety of our parishioners and the carrying out of the Lord’s ministry to His people:

- Priests will continue to offer daily private Mass for the intentions of the people.
- Weekly Adoration and other public devotions are suspended.
- Regular office hours will be held for ordinary parish business.
- Meetings of more than ten (10) people are cancelled.
- Churches remain open for public prayer during regular office hours at MHR & STP.
- Confession, Anointing of the Sick & Viaticum are available on individual basis.
- Funerals, Baptisms and Weddings will continue, but only a small number of immediate family members are allowed to attend.
- Obligation to attend Sunday Mass is lifted until the crisis passes.
- Sunday Mass can be followed on television, online or radio.
- Holy Communion can be received outside the church after designated weekend private Masses, see bulletin for exact times & locations.
- Religious instruction is to continue via on-line, email, and phone based teaching with at-home learning to be carried out on a weekly basis.

It is important to follow carefully the provisions of the public health officials, but it is also essential that our spiritual lives be strengthened during these difficult times. I invite families and individuals to engage in prayer—to pray the rosary, to read the Scriptures, to write letters of encouragement to the lonely and sick in our communities, and to pray for those who are directly or indirectly impacted by the COVID-19/Coronavirus situation. Be assured of my prayers for you during this time.

United in the Hearts of Jesus and Mary,

Fr. Thomas M. Niehaus