

**SAINT MARY'S CHURCH**  
330 PRATT STREET  
MANSFIELD, MASSACHUSETTS 02048-1581



March 17, 2020

Dear Parishioner,

Although we are not able to gather to celebrate the Eucharist during the week or on the weekend, I want to assure you that you remain in my prayers. We live in unprecedented times.

Bishop da Cunha has asked that Churches be open for a limited time each day. We are in the process of having the Church cleaned and sanitized. Once that is complete, the Church will be open each day from 2:30 p.m. to 6 p.m. Due to the size of our Church, we will have the side door facing the parking lot open during those hours. People will need to follow the rules established by public health officials (sitting at least 6 to 8 feet away from one another, using the hand sanitizers etc.). **The vast majority of the Church will be roped off because we need to clean and sanitize each day once the Church is closed, and we cannot possibly do that for the entire Church. We ask that you strictly adhere to these stipulations.**

It is imperative that we keep in our prayers those who have died from the coronavirus, those who are sick, the medical personnel and first responders who are ministering to the people. We pray, too, that the virus be contained and that a vaccine be developed soon.

Please note that weekday Mass is offered at 9:30 a.m. on Boston Catholic TV, Channel 268, and they provide many other devotions throughout the day. Our Diocese provides a Mass on Sundays on Channel 6 at 11 a.m.

I am conscious, too, of how disruptive this crisis is to so many families. One parent must stay home to be with the children. Depending on their employers, they may be doing this forfeiting that second income. The elderly are vulnerable because of weakened conditions. Please contact elderly neighbors by phone to see if they need assistance.

The Saint Vincent de Paul Society stands ready to assist with folks in need. They can be reached at 508-369-4300. Their ministry is to serve our brothers and sisters.

I would be less than candid if I did not express my concern for the parish. We are dependent upon the weekly collections and the on-line donations to pay our obligations. Suspending the weekly liturgies, which is a necessity, has started to have a devastating effect on how we function as a parish. I know that many will not be able to assist because their own circumstances have changed dramatically. But for those who can, I ask that you forward your weekly contributions and possibly a little extra to help us get through this difficult period. I have made cuts in our budget (including the area of personnel) particularly during the past eighteen months. I hope not to have to make even more. In the past few months, folks have taken advantage of using the on-line giving, We Share. It is listed as the first link on the parish website. This allows you to make donations to the parish whether you are present or not.

Let us continue to keep each other in our prayers. If there is anything that I can do, please do not hesitate to contact me. **Consult the parish website because I will be posting updates when needed or helpful.**

I remain,

Sincerely yours in Christ,

(Rev.) Michael K. McManus  
Pastor