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11 March 2020

Dear St. Rita Community:

I wanted to inform all of you that this morning, March 11, we were contacted with information that a member of our St. Rita School and Parish community has shown symptoms consistent with COVID-19. Communicating with Dallas County Health and Human Services, we know this person is currently being tested and receiving care. At this time, they've asked us not to comment further on the details of this particular case.

I can assure you, however, that we remain in constant contact with Dallas County and our City Council Member, Jennifer Gates, as well as the Bishop and officials from the Diocese. We will give you all the information we can when directed.

We have, however, voluntarily initiated several precautions at St. Rita, effective immediately:

- 1) **All Masses and Confessions are cancelled at St. Rita the rest of the week.** We will resume our normal schedule with the Vigil Mass at 5:30pm Saturday evening, March 14; however, if this changes, we will inform you immediately.
- 2) **Also, all meetings and gatherings on St. Rita campus are cancelled until further notice.** We are currently notifying ministry leads to inform them of our decision.
- 3) Out of an abundance of caution, **we have decided to cancel School the rest of the week.** We will assess the situation as things unfold to decide when to reopen sometime after Spring Break.
- 4) **We are currently working on deep cleaning the entire School *and* church campus** following CDC guidelines.
- 5) We will update you when we learn more.

Please note that we are taking these measures voluntarily out of a great abundance of caution and out of concern for all our members as well as the wider community. We have been assured by the Dallas County Health Department that we are doing everything that should be done at this time.

For more information on COVID-19 and how to combat it's spread, please refer to the resources available through the DCHHS website: <https://www.dallascounty.org/departments/dchhs/2019-novel-coronavirus.php>

So, let's be calm and let's be St. Rita to one another! Let's hold each other in prayer. And again, we will be in touch with more information as need arises as soon as possible. And wash your hands!

Yours, in Christ,

Fr. Joshua J. Whitfield
Pastoral Administrator
St. Rita Catholic Community