



March 19, 2020
The Solemnity of Saint Joseph

Dear Faithful of the Cathedral of Our Lady of Walsingham,

By now, most, if not all, Dioceses in the United States have suspended the public celebration of Mass in order to stem the spread of the COVID-19 virus. Please know of the great heaviness in the heart of our own Bishop and in my heart as your Pastor that comes with making this decision. The following is from Bishop Lopes in his letter to the Clergy of the Ordinariate:

“As a pastor myself, I grieve for our people who feel themselves denied the intimacy of Our Lord’s presence in Holy Communion. But let us also be clear: our action now in suspending Mass *is* a pastoral response! We are caring for our most vulnerable parishioners in this way. I know many of you have creatively tried—I have tried!—to keep Mass available for as long as possible. But the time has come for this pandemic to run its course and for all of us to follow the guidance of the experts. **Until further notice, the celebration of public Mass is suspended in the Ordinariate of the Chair of St. Peter.**”

Weekday and Sunday Masses

All **Weekday and Sunday Masses** are suspended at the Cathedral of Our Lady of Walsingham.

Please do know that **the Church is open daily from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. for individual and private prayer.**

The Priests of the Cathedral will be celebrating private Masses with the intentions that have been accepted. You may call the Parish Office (713.683.9407) to request a Mass intention.

Viewing Sunday Mass

This coming Sunday you will have the opportunity to **view Mass at the Cathedral on our website** (olwcatholic.org) beginning at 9:00 a.m. We will keep this video up until 7:00 p.m. on Sunday evening. This will continue on Sundays for the foreseeable future.

Confessions

The Sacrament of Confession will be offered at multiple times throughout the week, beginning this Saturday, March 21 in the Church. Below is the Confession schedule:

Sunday: 9:00-10:00 a.m.

Wednesday: 11:00 a.m.-12:00 noon

Thursday: 11:00 a.m.-12:00 noon

Saturday: 9:00-10:00 a.m.

If you are unable to make these times, please call the Parish Office (713.683.9407) to schedule a Confession.

The Jubilee Year Indulgence

As you know, the faithful have the extraordinary pleasure of a daily plenary indulgence during this Jubilee for visits to the Shrine of Our Lady of Walsingham. Under normal circumstances, in addition to the Shrine Prayers, the indulgence requires Confession and Holy Communion, which is not possible during this period. In order for the faithful to fulfill the requirements of the Indulgence, Bishop Lopes has invoked his authority, which is given in the Handbook of Indulgences, to modify the decree and has granted permission to gain the indulgence without receiving Holy Communion. The faithful should continue their regular visits to the Shrine of Our Lady of Walsingham and make their Confession, having the intention to receive Holy Communion as soon as it is possible.

A Final Note

We are in extraordinary times and in them we are called to have extraordinary faith. Please do not let this heavy situation in any way diminish your faith in the one Lord, Jesus Christ, and his One, Holy, Catholic, and Apostolic Church. The Holy Spirit **is at work** and we, as the faithful, need to continue to discern his work among us. Many find themselves in their homes and neighborhoods more than they are usually accustomed. Remember there is great opportunity here for the work of the Church through you. We must begin to see our calling in every context we find ourselves. Therefore, continue to live out the Gospel, the good news of Jesus Christ, and know of my prayer for each of you.

St. Joseph, Patron of the Universal Church and of Families: Pray for us.

I remain,

Faithfully in Christ through Mary,



Very Rev. Charles A. Hough IV
Rector and Pastor