

As concerns surrounding the spread of the coronavirus continue to grow, Bishop Edward C. Malesic has decided to temporarily suspend all weekday and weekend public Masses in the Diocese of Greensburg effective Wednesday, March 18, 2020. Tuesday will be the final day of public Masses until further notice.

However, St. Mary Church will remain open for private prayer a few hours each day from 9am to 4pm unless there is funeral mass/service.

Bishop Malesic urged us to remember in our prayers all those whose lives have been impacted by the coronavirus outbreak. "This is a seriously contagious illness. We have trust that God will see us through but we must do our part not to overwhelm our hospital systems. We have a responsibility to our neighbors. These actions help us to be proactive in the spread of the disease." Bishop said.

Fr. Ron will continue to offer mass daily in private for all previously published parish Mass intentions, as well as offering additional prayers at these Masses for the protection of our parish community during this time of crisis. He will continue to respond to all pastoral emergencies and provide Anointing of the Sick and Viaticum for the critically ill and dying.

#### **OTHER IMPORTANT DECISIONS**

- For baptisms, funerals and weddings, an effort to scale back attendance to immediate family would be preferred. St. Mary Parish however will follow all mandated regulations regarding the size of gatherings. For funerals it is recommended that public notification of services would not designate a specific time for Mass, rather, for example read, "A funeral Mass will be celebrated at the convenience of the family."
- All other gatherings including faith formation (e.g. RCIA) are now suspended, but we will try to continue as possible electronically.

The public celebration of Stations of the Cross, Chaplet of Divine Mercy, Morning/Evening Prayer and Rosary are all suspended.

#### **SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION**

- All public Penance services are suspended.
- Those who require the sacrament of reconciliation should contact the parish office for an appointment.