



SAINT MARY'S CHURCH

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March 24, 2020

Dear Parishioners, Praying for you all during this difficult time.

In accordance with the executive order signed by Governor Whitmer, requiring Michiganders to stay home, the Diocese of Grand Rapids has updated its COVID-19 directives for parishes and schools, effective at 12:01 a.m. Tuesday, March 24.

Updates include the cancellation of all public Masses and all other liturgical and devotional services through Easter Monday, April 13. The diocese will be issuing a further update for Holy Week and Easter in light of the new directives from state officials. Please stay tuned.

In addition, With no Mass on Palm Sunday, we are currently making arrangements for the provisions of palms. Fr Ayub will be blessing Palms prior to the weekend Masses of April 4/5. Blessed Palms will be available for you and your families to pick up during normal Mass times at both parishes beginning that weekend. You may call the parish office to make other arrangements.

Our Parish Office is closed thru April 13. (this date is subject to change) For non-emergency concerns, please email secretary@saintmarysmarne.org or call 1.616.677.3934. We will reply to you within 24 hours. For emergencies, please contact Fr Ayub at : 1.616.901.0974 or franasar@grpriests.org. We are sorry for any inconvenience this may cause and we appreciate your understanding. You are in my thoughts and prayers.

Please be assured that we are in communication with the Diocese in regard to corona virus, in order to make meaningful and wise choices regarding how we operate and function as a cluster parish, keeping in mind our Mission to take care of the spiritual and sacramental needs of our faith communities, does not change while caring for the physical needs of the people.

For further changes and updates, please watch your emails, refer to our parish and diocesan websites and facebook pages. We will do our best to keep you informed. Please share this information with anyone who may be homebound or does not have internet access.

As you are aware that our mission is to preach the Gospel of Jesus Christ is spiritual one but it also requires the financial resources in order to be done well. We pray that your faithfulness shine through these challenging and uncertain time. Please prayerfully consider dropping off or mailing your weekly stewardship contribution to the parish office. You may also sign up for Text & ON_LINE GIVING as convenient and safe way to make one-time or recurring donation.

ON-LINE-GIVING: <https://giving.parishsoft.com/App/Giving/saintmarysmarne>

TEXT GIVING: text 616-201-3677 enter the dollar amount in the message and the simply follow the instructions to set your information and you will be ready to text and give. Please contact the parish office if you have any questions. Your continued support is very much appreciated during this uncertain time helps sustain our parish.

Weekly bulletins are still available. They are posted on our facebook page, or online at: <http://stmarymarne.org/bulletins> or you can pick up during normal Mass / Confession Times.

Please Note: On Thursday, March 26, Our evening of Penance, “The Light Is On For You” is still scheduled to proceed. Fr. Ayub will hear individual confessions at St. Mary's from 5-8 PM. Confessions will be heard individually, one by one in the chapel. Please adhere to social distancing guidelines in the main church while you wait for your turn to enter the chapel.

He will also be available on Wednesday, March 25, from 3-5 PM, at St. Michael's and Saturdays at St Mary from 3:30 to 4:15pm for our normal individual confessions times.

For the safety of yourself and others, if you are sick, please stay home.

Visitation for homebound and hospitalized parishioners is currently suspended.

THANK YOU for sending your pictures, we have filled the chapel, but there is always room for more, please keep your selfies and family pictures coming. I enjoy seeing all of your smiling faces.

Please know that I am lifting you all in my daily prayers and private Mass celebrations.

Join me in praying for the strength to face the challenges which are ahead of us in these difficult times.

Below is a traditional prayer of spiritual communion that many saints have prayed over the years. It can be prayed when you are unable to receive the Eucharist, or even in the midst of your daily work, lifting up your thoughts to God. The ultimate goal of our lives should be communion with God and an act of spiritual communion can help a person draw closer to that goal.



*My Jesus,
I believe that You are present in the Most Holy Sacrament.
I love You above all things, and I desire to receive You into my soul.
Since I cannot at this moment receive You sacramentally,
come at least spiritually into my heart.
I embrace You as if You were already there and unite myself wholly to You.
Never permit me to be separated from You.
Amen.*

If you do have any other questions, please feel free to contact me via email franasar@grpriests.org or my cell phone at: 1.616.901.0974

With every prayerful best wish, I remain Your loving pastor,

Fr. Ayub Francis Nasar