



November 20, 2020

Dear Parish Families,

On Friday of this week Archbishop Hebda sent a letter to all of the priests of the Archdiocese. In it, he thanked us for our ongoing ministry during the pandemic and for our commitment to following the COVID-19 safety protocols instituted by the Archdiocese and public health officials.

Due to the surge in cases – including deaths and hospitalizations – he has asked us to pause, postpone or move virtually, all of our non-sacramental, non-essential activities between now and Christmas. Out of love for our sisters and brothers and the common good, parish leadership has decided to:

Pause all optional in-person activities including:

- Bible studies
- All parish meetings
- Adult faith formation

Move to the virtual realm:

- Parish committee meetings
- Faith Formation classes and other events (classes are already using virtual learning)

**A special case that we will continue to keep open for now is The Baby Blanket.** We view The Baby Blanket as a corporal work of mercy - a community service that, like grocery stores, is essential (food and clothing). Our use of this service has grown dramatically over the past 2 months, and given the economic conditions, our clients may well not be able to afford retail stores. We also feel that our protocols in place make the experience very safe for both the client and volunteer.

Most importantly, we will continue to celebrate the Mass both in-person and online. The dispensation from the Sunday Mass obligation continues, so if you are in an at-risk category (older than 65, have compromised health, etc.) you are encouraged to worship with us virtually, though the decision is yours.

Also, remember to stay home if you are not feeling well, if you've had contact with someone who is ill, or if you are awaiting the results of a COVID-19 test. We believe these small sacrifices are vital to minimizing the spread of the virus and to keep our parishes open for Mass, confessions, weddings and other Sacraments. Archbishop Hebda recorded a video message for you, the faithful, as well. You may [watch it here](https://youtu.be/CywjU-82YGM) (youtu.be/CywjU-82YGM).

Please feel free to contact any member of the parish staff and leadership team if you have any questions.

Sincerely in Christ,

*Rev. David W. Kohner*

Rev. David W. Kohner, Pastor

**Together In Christ. Living Our Faith.**

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