

In light of the growing coronavirus crisis, with the recommendation of the CDC and the Ohio Department of Health to limit gatherings to 10 people, **the Catholic Bishops of Ohio have decided that the celebration of all public Masses will be suspended until further notice.** You will find the statement from the Catholic Bishops of Ohio below.

This is an exceedingly difficult and painful situation we now face, but in this time, more than ever, let us turn to Our Lord in prayer. Let us continue to pray for and support one another in these very trying times, especially those who are suffering with the virus and our healthcare professionals. Let us pray in a particular way through the intercession Our Blessed Mother and our patroness, St. Catharine of Siena.

When access to the celebration of the Eucharist is limited, we are encouraged to practice spiritual communion with Christ. Saint Teresa of Jesus wrote: "When you do not receive communion, and you do not attend Mass, you can make a spiritual communion, which is a most beneficial practice; by it the love of God will be greatly impressed on you." (Ecclesia Eucharistia, no. 34)

There is a traditional prayer for Spiritual Communion: "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."

Please know that I will be praying for all of you that God may protect you and your families. As your pastor, I care for each of you deeply and if anyone is in need of Anointing of the Sick, please call our emergency line at 614-725-1931.

I strongly encourage all of us to offer the following prayer every single day until this pandemic has been resolved:

Prayer from Pope Francis to Mary During Coronavirus Pandemic

*O Mary,
you always shine on our path
as a sign of salvation and of hope.
We entrust ourselves to you, Health of
the Sick, who at the cross took part in
Jesus' pain, keeping your faith firm.
You, Salvation of Your People,
know what we need,
and we are sure you will provide
so that, as in Cana of Galilee,*

*we may return to joy and to feasting
after this time of trial.
Help us, Mother of Divine Love,
to conform to the will of the Father
and to do as we are told by Jesus,
who has taken upon himself our
sufferings
and carried our sorrows
to lead us, through the cross,
to the joy of the resurrection. Amen.*

Remember, God is with us.
Fr. Dury