

March 18, 2020

My dear brothers and sisters,

We have put together a Q&A that reflects some of the questions we have been receiving lately. I hope this helps.

**What about Masses?**

All public celebration of Masses have been suspended at least through and including Easter. We will be live-streaming daily Masses at 7pm and on Sundays at 11am. We will try to live-stream Holy Week liturgies as well. You can go to our [YouTube page](#) to watch.

**Will there be confessions offered?**

Yes. A schedule for confessions will be sent out soon. Please keep in mind that extraordinary care will have to be taken to limit the possibility of viral spread; hence, the outdoor confessions yesterday.

**What about receiving the Sacrament of Anointing of the Sick?**

As the *Catechism of the Catholic Church* notes, "This is not a sacrament for those only who are at the point of death. Hence, as soon as anyone of the faithful begins to be in danger of death from sickness or old age, the fitting time for him to receive this sacrament has certainly already arrived." I'll go anoint anyone who fits this qualification, unless they are in a nursing home (I'm not allowed entry there for the time being).

**What about baptisms?**

Baptisms are still possible based on pastoral urgency. However, in order to limit any potential spread of the virus to a vulnerable population, only small, private family Baptisms with only immediate family and godparents attending are allowed.

**What about funerals?**

If at all possible, we ask that you schedule a memorial Mass at a time when the current restrictions are lifted. A shortened liturgy may be celebrated at the cemetery with immediate family members only, keeping in mind the call for social distancing. If a funeral Mass is celebrated, the attendees are limited to immediate family members only.

**What about ministry to the sick and homebound?**

All ordinary in person visits to the sick and homebound have stopped for the duration of this emergency. This is out of necessity for their protection. Ministers to the homebound are being encouraged to contact the homebound by telephone and they are offering other means to bring them comfort and support. We will be inviting people to write to the residents of nursing homes soon.

**How can I continue to support our parish offertory if all our Masses are being cancelled?** (I make my weekly gifts to St. Catharine only through the basket at Sunday Mass.)

May God bless you for your generous planning! You have several options to continue your offertory. Option #1: mail in your pre-printed weekly offertory envelope to St. Catharine Parish, 500 S. Gould Rd., Columbus, OH 43209. (Note: Your pre-printed Offertory envelopes came with only one mail-in envelope. If you will be mailing in your envelope on a weekly basis, you will need to use a larger mailing envelope to do this). Option #2: Hand deliver your weekly offertory envelope to our safe and secure drop box. Option #3: go to our parish website ([www.stcatharine.com](http://www.stcatharine.com)) and sign up for electronic giving. It's safe, secure, and convenient.

**My weekly offertory envelopes had one mailing envelope. Should I send back my offertory envelope in that?**

Yes. Place the smaller offertory envelope inside that envelope. If you do this more than once, please use a business reply envelope and mail to us at 500 S. Gould Rd., Columbus, OH 43209. The parish will also provide parishioners with a supply of pre-addressed return envelopes. Call (614) 231-4509 and leave a voicemail message requesting a supply.

**How has the Covid-19 crisis affected our Parish Center building project?**

So far, there has not been a disruption to the timeline and our construction crews continue to make very good progress. Since there is no weekly bulletin distribution, we will keep everyone apprised of our progress through the parish website and emails.

I hope this helps answer any questions you may have had!

You're in my prayers,

Fr. Dury