

With respect and obedience to our Archbishop Wilton Gregory, we have discontinued all “Masses open to the public” between the 14th of March and March the 27th. The exception to the rule will be the funeral Mass – where “attendance should be limited to immediate family.” Obviously, I will continue to offer “Masses without a Congregation” on a daily basis. (As St. John XXIII said, the expression “private Mass” should be avoided, since every properly celebrated Mass is an act of public worship.)

The good news is that Spiritual Communion, (so often falsely spoken of in dismissive terms), which has been imposed on our Archdiocese for reasons of health, can enhance a deeper yearning for the Eucharist. **(See the note at the bottom of the page concerning Spiritual Communion)**

But to be clear, Archbishop Gregory did not ask us to close our doors. There seems to be an unspoken awareness that *private* Rosaries, Liturgy of the Hours, Stations of the Cross, Confessions and finally Adoration can continue. **We at St. John’s will continue with our normal schedule of confessions and adoration at the regularly scheduled times.**

Obviously, with full dispensations in place, no one is obliged to come to Church over these two weeks. Especially if you are coughing and or have a fever, please, out of justice and charity, DO NOT come to Church. Even the appearance of flu-like symptoms should inspire you to worship the Lord at home out of respect for your neighbor.

When it comes to communion for the homebound, the protection of maintaining self-quarantine makes abundant sense.

Communion to those in Nursing Care Facilities, Hospitals, and Hospice House is notably discontinued, as we protect our vulnerable adults from any contamination. Visits to the sick will be decided upon on a case by case basis upon request.

All School, CCD, Bingo and indoor sporting events, and even all small bible studies and RCIA are discontinued for two solid weeks. Sadly, our **Parish Mission** has been cancelled what with the death of the father of David Anders, our Mission speaker.

TV Mass on the ADW website, as well as EWTN is readily accessible. What a great opportunity for heads of households to make the family home into a 'little church' setting aside creative times and places for prayers devotions and catechesis, as perhaps never before. Check out all the **Formed.org** 20 minute, easy to digest catechetical material. I love anything from Father Mike Schmitz (Darn! No relation). And now I know why the Lord placed on my heart this crazy desire to see all parishioners with a Bible at their bedsides!

As we know that the coronavirus dies within three days on plastic, metal and cardboard surfaces, a one-time cleaning of the school and Msgr. Harris Center will suffice. All the areas of the vestibule, nave, sacristy and all adjoining bathrooms will be repeatedly wiped by our professional cleaning crew and/or our volunteers over these two weeks.

Thank you for your gracious concern. I know the power of your prayer is efficacious. Our office is open throughout this ordeal, as

we look to hire new staff as well. Look for updates on this webpage throughout these two weeks. And thank you for using Faith Direct, poor box and remembering our offertory as well.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

March 13th, 2020, Feast of Saint Leander of Seville

Fr. Ray

Spiritual Communions

According to Saint Thomas Aquinas, spiritual communion consists of “an ardent desire to receive Jesus in the Holy Sacrament and a loving embrace as though we had already received Him.”

St. Teresa of Avila 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.

To make a spiritual communion you can simply say the following prayer in a recollected manner:

“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” The prayer of spiritual communion – which may even be made without words in the yearnings of our heart – shows our deep hunger for the Eucharist; it further shows our deep desire to be united to the

Eucharistic life of Christ; it shows, as well, our profound love for the Sacrament of Love!