

March 12, 2020

Dear St. Mary's Parishioners,

In an effort to limit the spread of COVID-19, and keeping in line with Oregon and Archdiocesan directives, it has been decided to limit various activities around the parish.

WEEKEND MASS

Following the Governor's and Archbishop's directives, we are following orders to limit all Masses to 250 persons. At this time, St. Mary's will continue to celebrate Mass at the regular weekend Mass times (Saturday Vigil 5:30 pm, Sunday 7:30 am, 10:00 am, 12:30 pm in Spanish). If you regularly attend the 10:00 am Mass, we strongly encourage you to consider attending the Saturday Vigil at 5:30 pm or Sunday morning at 7:30 am. If you are over the age of 60, have a medical issue or compromised immune system, are not feeling well, or seriously consider yourself to be at risk for the COVID-19 virus, you are formally excused from attending Mass, and have received dispensation from Archbishop Sample and Fr. Philip, effective immediately. We encourage you to continue to make holy the Sabbath and make a spiritual communion. We are happy to welcome you back once the danger has passed. You can read the full letter from the Archdiocese here: (<https://ec-prod-sites.s3.amazonaws.com/12494/documents/2020/3/Coronavirus%20and%20the%20Liturgy%2031220%20English%20with%20Dispensation.pdf>)

STATIONS OF THE CROSS

Effective immediately, it has been decided to cancel Stations of the Cross and Soup Suppers for the remaining Fridays of Lent.

The Stations of the Cross are a beautiful devotion that helps us prepare for Easter, so we highly encourage you to continue this beautiful prayer on your own.

There will various printed copies in the back of the church for you to take and keep. Take as many as you like; we will replenish as needed.

You can also download one of the many prayer apps to your phone, such as Laudate, and take a nice walk up the Abbey Hill and pray the Stations as you go.

We offer prayers for all those affected. Wash your hands! And remember FAITH over fear.

FAITH FORMATION (Grades K-12, Reconciliation, First Communion, and Confirmation Years 1 & 2)

All K-12 Faith Formation (Religious Education, Youth Ministry, Sacramental Prep) on Wednesdays & Sundays, while very important for our families and youth, is CANCELLED at this time. But don't change your calendars! Keep those times reserved and sacred, so you can continue to dedicate that time to God, Faith, Prayer, and learning. Communication will be sent in the next week with resources and suggestions on how to continue to keep your kids learning about the faith and preparing for the Sacraments at home. While not ideal, this does create a beautiful opportunity for the Domestic Church (the family), to grow and flourish! Our prayers are with all those affected by this virus, and we pray that St. Joseph & Our Blessed Mother will continue to protect and guide us. JESUS, WE TRUST IN YOU!

We as a parish are following these guidelines out of an abundance of concern for your spiritual and physical health and well-being of the people of God entrusted to our pastoral care. We appreciate your prayers and patience as we deal with this complex situation.

God's Blessings,

Fr. Philip and St. Mary's Staff