



St. Joseph Church

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FR. BORDONARO'S MESSAGE REGARDING CORONAVIRUS

My Dear Parishioners,

The challenging news that Archbishop Perez announced regarding the suspension of Masses in all the churches of the Archdiocese of Philadelphia is disturbing but necessary. This type of action is unprecedented in my time as a priest. Not since 1918, when the Spanish Flu was sweeping through the country, were all the churches and schools shut down. While we may have never experienced anything like this, it is important to cooperate with the plan so that we as Catholics can do our part in preventing any further spread of the virus.

In his message, Archbishop Perez emphasized that despite the suspension of Mass, the Catholic Church must not disappear from the community, especially now when people will need and hunger for the grace and strength that comes from Christ. With this in mind, I would like to offer the current plan for St. Joseph parish. Please realize that as this situation changes we will undoubtedly have to make adjustments and we will do our best to communicate those to you.

PLAN FOR ST. JOSEPH CHURCH

- Although all weekday and Sunday Masses are suspended until further notice, all of the intentions assigned to our public Masses during this time will be satisfied, as well as prayers for the parish. The priests who help on the weekend will be asked to assist in fulfilling all the intentions.
- Of course, the obligation to attend Mass on Sundays and Holy Days of Obligation is suspended until further notice.
- Funerals and weddings will be celebrated with due regard for social distancing and certain limitations in the number of participants.
- The church has scheduled a professional deep cleaning with our regular cleaning contractor.
- For the consolation of our parishioners, our church will remain open **Monday thru Friday from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., on Saturday 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., and on Sunday from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon** for prayer and meditation. On Mondays, we will have adoration of the Blessed Sacrament from 9:00 to 4:00 p.m. **N.B.** Please do not walk onto the sanctuary or approach the altar as the security alarm will be activated. Also please be mindful of social distancing and try to stay at least six to nine feet away from others in the church and of course if you are not feeling well, stay home.
- Confessions will be heard at the usual times in the confessional, Wednesdays in Lent from 7:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m., and on Saturday afternoon from 4:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. The confessional is equipped with sanitizing wipes to be used by the penitent before kneeling.
- All meetings of parish organizations, public devotions, prayer services including Stations of the Cross are suspended until further notice.
- Someone will be available in our parish office from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Monday to Friday effective immediately. In the event of a sacramental emergency, where the presence of a priest is required, please call the **emergency line at (267) 615-6458** and someone will respond to you as quickly as possible.

- You are encouraged during this time to take advantage of the various live streaming of Masses that are offered:
 - Each Sunday at 11:00 a.m. Archbishop Perez will celebrate Mass at the Cathedral Basilica on his facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/ArchbishopPerez/>
 - EWTN offers daily mass at 8:00 a.m., 12:00 noon, and 7:00 p.m.; and Sunday Mass at 8:00 a.m. and 12:00 Noon, as well as many other devotions
 - WRDV FM – 89.3 will continue to broadcast our Saturday Vigil Mass on Sunday Mornings at 9:00 a.m. I will record the Mass privately and provide it to the Radio Station. WRDV-FM.
 - We are also checking into the possibility of livestreaming St. Joseph’s Vigil Mass with cantor and organist on our website, and/or perhaps recording it and making it available later. Please stay tuned to www.saintjosephchurch.us for updates and availability.
- Although the public praying of the Stations of the Cross is suspended, books are provided in church for individual use.
- For the meantime, the bulletin will be available for pick-up at the church exit tables and also online. Holy water will be available in the large container in the back corner of the church, please bring an appropriate container to transport it.
- While we are not able to offer public Mass, please know that I will continue to pray for you and your families. We place our trust in the Lord and his Blessed Mother and St. Joseph our patron to see us through this difficult time.
- A drop-box is available in the back hallway of the church by the crucifix for your weekly donation envelopes, or you may deposit them in the secure mail slot in the front door of the rectory, mail them in, or consider online giving. You can find the details for online giving on our webpage, www.saintjosephchurch.us Our weekly bills and payroll continue and the weekly collection is the primary way to get them paid. Please continue to support your parish as we weather these challenges.

Since you are unable to attend Mass it is recommended that you take the time to read the scriptures on Sunday, to pray, and remember to “Keep Holy the Sabbath.” You can find the daily Mass readings on the USCCB website, <http://www.usccb.org/bible/reading>. It is also a good idea also to make an act of Spiritual Communion when one is unable to receive Our Lord in the Blessed Sacrament. This is a prayer that expresses your love for Jesus and desire to be close to him. Here is an example from EWTN.

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.

May God Bless you,

Fr. Joseph Bordonaro