

Holy Family Parish

1525 South Washington Avenue Saginaw, Michigan 48601 Phone 989-755-8020

19th March 2020

Feast of St. Joseph

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ:

I think we are all aware of the extraordinary times we are living in. Each day we hear in the news more and more about the coronavirus and how the number of citizens affected increases. As has been reported, each and every one of us could be a potential carrier of this virus, regardless of how we feel. To take the necessary precautions to this pandemic is an act of charity toward others.

The following statement comes to us from our Bishop, and I wish to share it with you:

"What I write to you today is very difficult news to bear. But in a greater abundance of caution and from what I have heard from the local healthcare professionals, I believe it is in the best interest given these 'extraordinary' times. Therefore, beginning tomorrow March 17 through Sunday, April 5, I am temporarily suspending all public Masses throughout the Diocese of Saginaw. This action of suspending all public Masses flows from the Catholic Church's essential belief in the preciousness of every human life."

Therefore, effective immediately, the following changes will occur at Holy Family Parish:

We will suspend the Stations of the Cross followed by noon Mass on Fridays.

Saturday 4 PM Mass and Sunday 9 AM Mass have been suspended.

Individual Sacrament of Penance will continue on Saturday afternoons, 3.00 to 3.45 PM.

Anointing of the Sick will continue to be celebrated. Please call the office to arrange a time for Father Thai and me to visit you. I will try to maintain regular office hours so that if you need to contact me at the parish, I will be available for you.

Funerals are permitted; however, the restrictions on numbers of those attending must follow the Governor's mandates and will be adhered to.

Our Bishop encourages each of us to view the Cathedral Mass livestream each Sunday at 10 AM on the diocesan website: <https://saginaw.org/cathedral-live>. In addition, each of us is asked to offer a Spiritual Communion.

We are all called to intensify our prayer life during this current situation. It is important for all parish communities to look for ways to practice the spiritual and corporal works of Mercy. Don't forget to check in on your loved ones and neighbors, especially the elderly. Furthermore, we must remember in our prayers those suffering from the virus as well as those who have died from this disease.

And on another note, I call on you, faithful parishioner of Holy Family, to remember the practical aspects of running a parish. Just last Friday, I had to pay our monthly Consumers Energy bill: \$822 for Rectory/Office and \$1,562 for the Church. Invoices and bills continue to arrive, and we need your financial support now as before. Please, I would appreciate you sending to the office your weekly offering envelope.

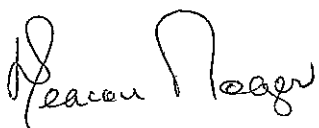
Effective immediately, I want you to know that our church will remain open for private prayer and reflection, Monday through Friday, 10.00 AM to 2.00 PM. There will not be any liturgical service planned, but rather this time is available for anyone who wants to pray before the Blessed Sacrament. I encourage you to park on the south side of the church [the side facing the rectory.]

Furthermore, I encourage each of you to view our website. We will try posting any new or additional information: www.holyfamilysaginaw.org and/or www.facebook.com and to keep up with our bulletins, please visit www.DiscoverMass.com.

Our Bishop invites all of us to call upon our Blessed Mother, Our Lady of the Assumption and Patroness of the Diocese of Saginaw, to enfold all of us, our Diocese, and our world into her mantle of love and mercy. That through her intercession we all will be kept safe from this coronavirus, and those who have it may be led to a great healing.

I remain . . .

Sincerely yours in Christ,



Deacon Roger Pasionek

Director of Parish Life