



## Our Lady of Fatima Church

### Response to Coronavirus (COVID – 19) and Flu Updated March 13, 2020 12:00 PM

In response to the severity of the flu season and the international outbreak of the Coronavirus (COVID – 19), and to reduce the opportunities for contagion, Archbishop John C. Wester, Archbishop of Santa Fe, has instructed all Catholic Churches and Schools within the Archdiocese of Santa Fe to cease operations immediately. This means that Catholic Schools will be closed for as long as the public schools are closed, which is currently expected to be three weeks. **All activities at the parish have been cancelled until further notice.** This means that there will be no public Masses, no Confessions, no religious education classes, no prayer groups, no Lenten Soup Suppers, no Stations of the Cross, no ministry meetings, and so on. The purpose is to reduce the amount of interpersonal contact and thus reduce the possibility of infection from the Coronavirus. We are expecting to hear from the Archbishop sometime today regarding funerals, weddings, and other specific matters.

The parish office will be closed during this period, but you may call by phone for updates or with any concerns. You may also check the parish website - [www.fatimachurchabq.org](http://www.fatimachurchabq.org) - for official updates. It would be most helpful for persons to avoid spreading rumors, and rather turn to the parish website for current information as it becomes available. At the parish, we are using this period of time to thoroughly clean and disinfect all of the parish facilities.

Parishioners are encouraged to maintain their prayer life, and either listen to Mass on Relevant Radio 98.9 FM (Mass at 8:00 am on Sundays and 6:30 pm weekdays), or watch Mass on television such as on EWTN. Parishioners also have access to a large amount of Catholic media on Formed.org (please see details in the parish bulletin). Fr. Chris and I will be celebrating a private (non-public) Mass each day for the intentions of our parishioners. We will also respond to calls for Anointing of the Sick (“Last Rites”). While you will not be able to sacramentally receive Holy Communion, you may offer the following Act of Spiritual Communion that was recommended by St. Alphonsus Liguori:

*My Jesus, I believe that you are in the Blessed Sacrament. I love you above all things, and I long for you in my soul. Since I cannot now receive you sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart. As though you have already come, I embrace you and unite myself entirely to you; never permit me to be separated from you. Amen.*

During this period of temporary shutdown, parishioners may mail in their offertory envelopes to the parish office, if possible. We intend to keep issuing a weekly bulletin that will be posted on the parish website to keep you informed.

These are extraordinary measures for what are surely extraordinary times, and they are taken with the intention of safeguarding human health and life. Please be assured that parish and school services will resume as soon as it is deemed safe to do so. May God bless you and keep you safe.

Yours in Christ,

*Fr. Stephen Schultz*

Very Rev. Stephen Schultz  
Pastor

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