

GUIDELINES AND INFORMATION ABOUT CORONAVIRUS

March 13, 2020

A Message from Fr. Antonio

Dear Parishioners,

Please use caution. If you are feeling sick or have a sick family member in your home, you should not attend Mass. Please take measures to protect yourself and your family members. The estimated quarantine time is 14 days. We will continue to have Mass on our scheduled dates and times unless otherwise notified by our Diocese. *(This paragraph will be read at Mass this weekend.)*

After much consideration, we have decided to cancel all activities at the church until further notice:

- There will be NO Stations of the Cross
- There will be NO Faith Formation on Sunday or Wednesday
- For all our Confirmation Candidates, all Service Volunteer Opportunities are canceled (your service hours will still count).
- We have canceled the Irish Soda Bread Sale and Bingo
- We have postponed the Lenten speaker for next weekend (March 21) and the Fish and Chips Dinner scheduled March 31
- We are following the lead of Mt. Olive Township and the Mt. Olive Board of Education concerning Faith Formation classes

These are proactive measures to help prevent the spread of the virus.

We WILL still be having all of our Masses as scheduled. If you are not feeling well or have been traveling via airplane – please stay home as a precaution. However, if you are coughing or sneezing and wish to attend Mass anyway, please wear a mask.

As guidelines are constantly evolving, please check our website (<https://stjudeparish.org>) often for updates.



DIOCESE OF PATERSON

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777 Valley Road
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(973) 777-8818 fax (973) 777-8976

Office of
THE BISHOP

March 13, 2020

My Dear Friends in Christ,

Obligation for Sunday Mass to Address the Coronavirus situation

In keeping with my responsibility to attend to the spiritual and pastoral care of the Christian faithful of the Diocese of Paterson, I make the following provisions for all parishes and institutions of this local church (cf. Code of Canon Law, cc.381):

In light of the danger of the risk of contagion associated with the coronavirus (COVID-019), the sick, the elderly and those vulnerable through special health concerns and underlying conditions, are dispensed from the obligation to participate in Sunday Mass until further notice. Mass will continue to be celebrated in all our parishes and institutions.

Because of the risk of spreading the coronavirus, the faithful of the Diocese of Paterson may legitimately choose not to attend Sunday Mass until further notice. Those who choose to attend are urged to use caution and prudence through appropriate social distancing.

The liturgical guidelines recently issued remain in effect.

The governor has recommended that there be no large gatherings. I ask that, for all upcoming confirmations, only the candidate, sponsor and parents attend until further notice. Pastors should consider canceling other large liturgical gatherings of the faithful.

We will closely monitor the situation and make any adjustments as required for the safety and well-being of all.

I ask all the faithful to join together in prayer, especially to our Blessed Mother, that the Lord deliver us from this present danger.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Most Reverend Arthur J. Serratelli, S.T.D., S.S.L., D.D.
Bishop of Paterson

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Dear Brothers in Christ,

In a time when we face situations beyond our control, it is good to remember the importance of prayer. We may not be in control of the world but God is.

Our Holy Father Pope Francis has composed the attached prayer (**see next page**). It seeks the powerful intercession of our Blessed Mother during this time of the coronavirus.

I am mandating that the prayer be said at every Mass in the Diocese of Paterson until further notice.

This is not a time for us to increase our people's fear, but to support them and have them turn to God with confidence.

I am grateful for your cooperation.

With every good wish, I remain

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Most Reverend Arthur J. Serratelli, S.T.D., S.S.L., D.D.
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Prayer of Pope Francis for Protection and Help

O Mary,
You always shine on our path
as a sign of salvation and of hope.
We entrust ourselves to you, Health of the Sick, who at the cross took
part in Jesus' pain, keeping your faith firm.
You...know what we need,
and we are sure you will provide
so that, as in Cana of Galilee,
we may return to joy and to feasting
after this time of trial.
Help us, Mother of Divine Love,
to conform to the will of the Father
and to do as we are told by Jesus,
who has taken upon himself our sufferings and carried our sorrows to
lead us, through the cross, to the joy of the resurrection. Amen.

Under your protection, we seek refuge, Holy Mother of God. Do not
disdain the entreaties of those of us who are in trial, but deliver us
from every danger, O glorious and blessed Virgin.