

Dear Parishioners,

Given the rapidly evolving state of the Covid-19 health crisis in the past two weeks, we have had to make new decisions every day that seek both the spiritual and physical wellbeing of our parishioners. All decisions have respected the federal, state, and ecclesial recommendations and policies.

On Tuesday, March 24, Archbishop ListECKI extended indefinitely the suspension of public Masses. The Triduum Liturgy and Easter Masses will be celebrated privately by pastors around the Archdiocese. First Communion and Confirmations are postponed. Any other liturgical gatherings must respect the policies of the state.

Also on Tuesday, Governor Evers enacted the "Emergency Order #12: Safer at Home Order." This order states, "All individuals present within the State of Wisconsin are ordered to stay at home or at their place of residence, with the exceptions outlined below." Section 13h states the following exception:

Weddings, funerals, and religious entities. Religious facilities, entities, groups, and gatherings, and weddings and funerals, except that any gathering shall include fewer than 10 people in a room or confined space at a time and individuals shall adhere to Social Distancing Requirements as much as possible.

Fortunately, this emergency order does not force us to close our Churches, cancel Eucharistic Adoration, or stop celebrating the Sacrament of Reconciliation. It does, however, require us to follow certain policies. In light of these policies, the following requirements must be followed by anyone who is praying in Church or waiting for Confession:

1. Anyone who enters the church must sanitize their hands before entering the church and after leaving. Hand sanitizer is provided in Church.
2. A person may not enter the church if that person or a family member has experienced any flu-like symptoms within the last two weeks, *even* if you believe they are the result of allergies.
3. The number of people must never exceed 10 at one time.
4. All present must ensure social distancing by remaining at least 6 feet apart from others at all times.

Please know that since the situation is continually changing, we may have to change our response. Our goal is both to provide for your spiritual needs and to battle the spread of the virus.

As we all continue to ask the Lord for strength and guidance during this challenging time, let us also try to profit from the ways that this pandemic affords us opportunities to grow in faith, hope, and love.

In Christ,

Father Strand