



CHURCH OF THE NATIVITY

Dear Nativity Family,

Love and prayers to you today! As always, our parishioners and their intentions were remembered at Mass. I had the feeling when I celebrated the morning Masses today that things might be different tomorrow. Indeed, things have changed. I want to share with you the latest statement and **decisions of Archbishop Naumann regarding the cancellation of Mass and restrictions / precautions for gatherings in our church. Scroll down to see the Archbishop's letter.**

As you know, the Coronavirus continues to grow and spread in our country, and closer to home, new cases in Johnson County. We want everyone to be safe and do our part to curb the spread. The situation is very fluid with new developments happening every day.

We are concerned about our Nativity Family and want to stay in touch. Our staff will meet tomorrow for an informational gathering, as well as discernment about ways we can stay in touch with our parishioners. I hope we can implement ways for us to pray together through streaming opportunities. I am very heartened by emails and conversations I've had with parishioners, who have offered to grocery shop or be of service to our elderly and high-risk parishioners. Seniors and high-risk parishioners, please don't hesitate to call if we can be of service to you.

Today is St. Patrick's Day. And it seems to be a more somber and subdued St. Patrick's Day. But let's allow the spirit of St. Patrick to lift us up. Over 1500 years ago, Patrick brought the Good News of Jesus to Ireland, instilling the faith in our God who loves us and has promised to be with us every step of the journey. St. Patrick wants to remind us of that same Good News today. I share with you the beautiful prayer of St. Patrick.

Breast Plate of St. Patrick – A Shield for Divine Protection.

Christ be with me, Christ within me,
Christ behind me, Christ before me,
Christ beside me, Christ to win me,
Christ to comfort and restore me.
Christ beneath me, Christ above me,
Christ in quiet, Christ in danger,
Christ in hearts of all that love me,
Christ in mouth of friend and stranger.

I bind unto myself the Name,
The strong Name of the Trinity;
By invocation of the same.
The Three in One, and One in Three,
Of Whom all nature hath creation,
Eternal Father, Spirit, Word:
Praise to the Lord of my salvation,
Salvation is of Christ the Lord.

St. Patrick pray for us!
Be safe and take care of each other.
Fr. Mike

NEW DEVELOPMENT

March 17, 2020

Statement of Archbishop Joseph F. Naumann

Regarding Cancellation of Public Masses in the Archdiocese of Kansas City in Kansas

In conjunction with the bishops of Kansas, effective 1 p.m. March 17, 2020, and until further notice, all public celebrations of the Holy Mass in the Archdiocese of Kansas City in Kansas are cancelled except for funeral Masses. Funeral Masses must be limited to no more than 50 people, including clergy, assisting ministers, family members and friends. No funeral luncheons may be held. A funeral liturgy outside of Mass must be limited in size as above. In addition to celebrating the funeral Mass or funeral liturgy outside of Mass, families and pastors are encouraged to schedule Memorial Masses for their loved ones in the future, when public health restrictions are relaxed, so that larger numbers may gather if desired.

All communal penance services are cancelled. Priests should continue as much as possible to offer individual confessions at regularly scheduled times, including Wednesday evenings during Lent. Confessions are to be heard only behind a screen or other barrier and not face to face. At no time should there be more than 50 people gathered in the church.

Baptisms may continue but only parents, godparents and immediate family members who are asymptomatic may attend, and in no case more than 50 people.

I encourage all of the faithful to continue to join together in prayer for the health and protection of our entire community and nation, and for an end to this crisis. I encourage all families and individuals to pray the rosary, invoking the intercession and protection of our Blessed Mother, Health of the Sick, for these intentions and for the health and well-being of our brothers and sisters who are ill, for their caretakers, and for all doctors, nurses, medical and emergency preparedness personnel and elected

officials. I encourage pastors, as much as possible, to post hours that their churches will be open for private prayer with our Eucharistic Lord present in the tabernacle. At no time should there be more than 50 people gathered in the church.

Do not come to any of the above if you are sick, if you have been exposed to the coronavirus, if you suspect you have been exposed or if you have been advised by a doctor not to go out in public or attend public gatherings

In light of Archbishop's announcement, Nativity Church will be open for private prayer Wednesday, March 18th – Friday, March 20th, during hours when staff members are present in the building 8am-4pm. Individual Confession on Wednesday at 6pm. With new developments happening each day, we will discern and publish a new schedule in a few days