



SACRED HEART and OUR LADY OF POMPEII PARISH

March 17, 2020

To All the Members of the Parish Council and Parishioners of Sacred Heart and Our Lady of Pompeii Parish,

Over the last few days, the rapidly developing COVID-19 Pandemic has created an unprecedented situation here in the Archdiocese of New York, the United States and around the world.

With this in mind, I want to communicate to you information we have been given by those in authority in the Archdiocese as well as in the healthcare field, the county, and the state government.

Here at Sacred Heart and Our Lady of Pompeii Parish, we are following these directives as carefully as we can in order to protect everyone and ensure we do not contribute to the spread of the coronavirus.

Until further notice the following will be in effect:

- Sunday and daily Masses will NOT be celebrated publicly in Church. Please be aware that Masses are still being celebrated privately by the priests of the parish in the rectory Chapel and the Mass intentions are being fulfilled. We encourage all parishioners to watch the Mass on Sundays and even daily on EWTN and the Catholic Faith Network which broadcasts the Mass each day from both St. Patrick's Cathedral in New York City and St. Agnes Cathedral in Rockville Centre.
- Sacred Heart Church will be open daily from 8am–2pm for private prayer and meditation and a candle has been lit in church for all who have died or are sick from COVID-19 and for the quick containment and eradication of this disease. We ask parishioners to respect the social distancing recommendations of the CDC while in Church and maintain a ten-foot distance from the other parishioners.
- Our maintenance staff is reporting for work each day and are sanitizing and disinfecting the entire church at the beginning, at the end of the day and periodically in between including all door handles and knobs as well as all surfaces.
- The parish office will remain closed until further notice. However, while office staff will be working from home the priests of the parish are available as usual for the pastoral care of our parishioners and all who are in need. Parishioners can call the parish office or come to the rectory and ring the doorbell if a priest is needed.
- Stations of the Cross, all meetings and parish activities are suspended until further notice.

This situation may continue for some time even past Holy Week and Easter. As I receive further updates I will pass them on to you by email and through the parish website on a regular basis, if not a weekly basis. Please feel free to share this information with other members of the parish you may be in communication with.

Finally, I ask all to join in the following prayer so that united as the Body of Christ, we may collectively add our voices to countless numbers of the faithful around the world in an effort to end this contagion which has affected the entire planet. May the Sacred Heart of Jesus, Our Lady of Pompeii and all the Saints intercede for us.

Sincerely,

Reverend Christopher Monturo
Pastor

PRAYER TO THE VIRGIN MARY FOR PROTECTION

O Mary, You shine continuously on our journey as a sign of salvation and hope.

We entrust ourselves to you, Health of the Sick.

At the foot the Cross you participated in Jesus' pain, with steadfast faith.

You, Our Lady of New York, know what we need.

We are certain that you will provide, so that, as you did at Cana of Galilee,

Joy and feasting might return after this moment of trial.

Help us, Mother of Divine Love, to conform ourselves to the Father's will

and to do what Jesus tells us:

He who took our sufferings upon Himself, and bore our sorrows to bring us, through the Cross,

to the joy of the Resurrection. Amen.

We seek refuge under your protection, O Holy Mother of God.

Do not despise our petitions— we who are put to the test — and deliver us from every danger,

O Glorious and Blessed Virgin. Amen