

Good afternoon, parishioners,

I wanted to give you some updates on what is happening for our parishes during this time.

Masses: As you saw in a previous email – and perhaps in the news – all public Masses have been suspended in our diocese through April 20th. With this announcement, Stations of the Cross will be cancelled as well. I will be offering Mass each day, and will be doing it for the intentions that have been requested. Masses will be offered each day at 9 AM, on our parish Facebook page. You do not need to have a Facebook account to go to our page and pray along with Mass. Just type in our page in your web browser: www.facebook.com/stjosephschurchandschool/ We are working on getting this onto our parish website as well.

Speaking of our parish website which is <https://www.stjosephscatholic.org/>, please remind any family or friends who are in our parishes but do not yet receive our group email to sign up for that. Once on our web page just scroll down to the banner that says “Email Sign Up” Click on that and it will set up an email to be sent directly to Karla. It is helpful to give your cell phone number too as another means to be able to contact you. Once Karla receives the request we will get you signed up to receive these group emails. This is really the best way to receive updates on what is happening in our parishes.

Our office hours during this time will be 9 AM – 1 PM, Monday through Thursday. At this time we will not have regular office hours on Fridays. If these hours are adjusted we will let you know. We are very grateful for your continued financial support especially in these difficult times. The mission of the Church continues on and we have our staff to pay as well as our normal bills. Please consider giving online through WeShare. Go to our parish website and click on “Stewardship/Giving” tab, and then “Donate online”. Follow the prompts to start your online giving. For online giving at St. Augustine’s, click on your parish tab. You may also contact Nancy at our parish offices if you need help with this. You may of course mail your envelopes to the parish or drop them off if you’d like. Our parish is dependent upon your weekly financial gifts to continue its ministries in this critical time when we are not able to go to Mass. Thank you for your generosity.

St. Joseph’s will be unlocked daily from 8 AM – 6 PM for you to come in and pray either in the church or in the adoration chapel. Wednesdays the church will remain unlocked through confessions. Our Perpetual Eucharistic Adoration continues, however at this difficult time if you feel like for your own health or the health of others that you shouldn’t come to adoration please stay home. Likewise if the person after you does not show up, you may cover the monstrance and leave. If we end up having too many people desiring to be in the adoration chapel at the same time, we will move Jesus in the monstrance out to the altar in the main body of the church. We will have Stations of the Cross booklets, prayers for making a spiritual communion, and other devotionals available by the baptismal font.

We will maintain the following times for the Sacrament of Reconciliation. At St. Joseph’s the times scheduled are Wednesdays at 6 PM, and Saturdays at 11 AM. The Saturday 4 PM confessions will be moved to St. Augustine’s, and we will not have Sunday morning confessions during this time. I will remain in the confessional for 45 minutes no matter what, but I will stay in the confessional as long as the line continues. More confession times will be posted for Holy Week. The confessional at St. Joseph’s has been rearranged to allow for social distancing, but due to the size of the confessional at St. Augustine’s all confessions there will be behind the screen. Take advantage of this Sacrament to encounter the Love and Mercy of Jesus. If you or someone you know is in need of receiving the Anointing of the Sick – especially when the person is in danger of death – call the office and choose my extension (19), there is a phone number on my voicemail in case of emergencies. Know of my prayers for all of you.

God Bless, Fr. Seth