



OFFICE OF THE PASTOR

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ADDRESSING THE OUTBREAK OF THE NOVEL CORONAVIRUS (COVID-19) AT SACRED HEART AND HOLY ROSARY CATHOLIC CHURCH

To the Saints of Sacred Heart and Holy Rosary Parishes:

Based on a letter from Bishop Kihneman and our Presbyteral Council dated March 17, 2020, the following will affect us in the short term due to the novel coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak. These guidelines are based on present circumstances and the urgings and recommendations of civil leaders and medical authorities. Effective, March 18, 2020, and for the next thirty days, we will address the outbreak in our parishes as follows:

- If you get sick or know someone who is, notify the office or Fr. Ken or Fr. Alwin. Take time to care deeply. Risk reaching out. Call fellow parishioners. Remember communion is not just sacramental communion with the Lord but with each other as the Body of Christ. Please check this website for putting a faith perspective on this time in our church life: <http://products.pastoral.center/pc/pc105/1/download-covi/index.html>.
- A **dispensation from the obligation** to participate in Mass on Sundays/Saturday Vigils is hereby granted to all in the Diocese of Biloxi;
- **Public Masses** will not be celebrated; *Magnificat Magazine* has generously offered their services free in English and in Spanish to follow weekday mass readings and Sunday mass readings as well. (www.magnificat.com/free www.magnificat.com/gratis)
- Fr. Alwin and myself will celebrate the **Mass privately** for you and your intentions;
- We will be doing live streaming for Sunday Mass and some daily Masses and a version of the Stations of the Cross (*more on this soon!*). All other **public gatherings** are cancelled at this time; you can also see mass on EWTN or www.biloxidiocese.org with the Bishop;
- Only Priests and Deacons, not Extraordinary Ministers of **Holy Communion**, may bring the Eucharist to those in need, unless the ailing parishioner's family member is a Eucharistic Minister and their loved one's prognosis warrants continued visits;
- The **Anointing of the Sick** should be administered only to those most in need; Priests should take every precaution in their contact with the sick;

- The **Sacrament of Penance** will be provided for individuals in need, with adequate distance and/or use of a fixed grille; Confessions will be available on Tuesdays and Thursday from 10 – 11 AM with Fr. Ken and from 2- 3 PM with Fr. Alwin. You can also make an appointment if needed;
- **Sacred Heart Church** will be opened, Monday through Friday, from 9 to 4:30 PM for everyone to come and pray—please enter where the handicap ramp is located; we would ask prudence here and that no big crowds. Practice social distancing (at least 6 feet apart) in the church. On weekends the church will be open on Saturday from 3 to 5 PM and on Sunday from 11 AM to 2 PM.
- **Prayer:** This is a good time for the saints of Holy Rosary and Sacred Heart to pray the Liturgy of the Hours that we priests pray. You can obtain the Liturgy of the Hours by downloading the app **iBreviary** or **Laudate**. Pray the rosary for healing our world. Let us pray for each other and pray as a family every day!!
- **Weddings, Baptisms and Quinceñeras** must be ten persons or fewer or will need to be rescheduled;
- Only graveside funerals are permitted at this time; Fr. Alwin and myself will offer a private Mass for the repose of the soul of the departed loved ones;
- **Adoration** will continue on Mondays in from **9 AM to 6 PM** but in the main church until further notice. We will adjust as needed with numbers. Social distancing should be practiced at all times.
- **Stay connected** by sending your email to sachurch@aol.com and we will be emailing Fr. Ken's homilies and reflections and other helpful resources for growing spiritually during these times as intentional disciples. Promise yourself that you will share all you receive with those not connected to the internet.;
- **Weekly bulletins** will be available at the entrances of the Church beginning on Saturday and throughout the week. This will also be a source of updating for parish concerns and also materials for prayer and encouragement;
- **Fish fries** are canceled.

Please be assured of Fr. Alwin and my prayers as we celebrate private Mass and pray our Liturgy of the Hours for you all. Please remember with us all who have died, those who are sick, and all who are anxious and fearful at this time, that by faith they will overcome their fears and trust in our good God and in his Son, Jesus. .

Let us pray for each other! Call if you need us.

Fr. Ken Ramón-Landry

Fr. Alwin Samy, HGN

Fr. Ken Ramón-Landry (Fr. Alwin Samy and the entire Sacred Heart/Holy Rosary staff)