



St. Joseph Neier

Rev. Thomas J. Wissler, Pastor

March 17, 2020

To: Parishioners of Saint Joseph Parish, Neier

From: Fr. Tom Wissler, Pastor

In Re: New Mandates from Archbishop Carlson Concerning Corona Virus Spread and Public Worship Practices

Dear Parishioners,

We have received new mandates from the Archbishop about public gatherings and liturgical celebrations in the Archdiocese. These are effective immediately until April 6th of this year. You may have heard about these from various news sources. Allow me to address each section as we implement these mandates in our parish.

1. All masses will be canceled including daily masses as well as ALL WEEKEND MASSES. The obligation to attend a weekend mass during this time period has been dispensed with by Archbishop Carlson. I will still celebrate a daily mass "sine populo" (without people) and the mass intention will be changed to the People of the Parish. The original mass intention will be rescheduled on a later date. Our church building will remain open from 8am until around 4pm each day for personal prayer.
2. Other Liturgical celebrations are to be canceled as well. These include in our parish: Thursday Eucharistic Adoration (due to the vulnerability and small number of adorers) and Stations of the Cross and Benediction on Friday evenings.
3. Parish activities are also canceled. In our parish this includes Bible Study, PSR classes, quilting sessions, 4-H meetings, neighborhood watch meetings and the shooting match. Large group meetings, such as a wedding shower or baby shower, are also canceled.
4. Funeral masses are to be celebrated with immediate family members only. There are no weddings or baptisms scheduled at St. Joseph for this time period.
5. Sacrament of Reconciliation: Our confessional room does not accommodate the recommended face-to-face distance (six feet) between confessor and penitent. If you desire a face-to-face confession, please call me and I will gladly make an appointment to accommodate you. I will still be available all day for Reconciliation in church BEHIND THE SCREEN on Thursday, March 26th from 9am until 4pm.

2401 Neier Road Union, MO 63084 636-583-2806

6. Anointing of the Sick: I will administer this sacrament whenever called for those seriously ill or in danger of death.
7. Offertory Collections: Obviously, parishes need the collections to operate and survive. Please mail your envelope or simply drop it by the office.
8. Communion calls: I will visit my regular communion calls unless I or they are not feeling well.
9. During this time in our weekly bulletins, which can be accessed on-line, I will insert a "would-be" homily as well as petitions for that particular Sunday. A paper bulletin will still be available for pick-up at the office and in the back of church on Friday afternoons.

Finally, as we go through these "interesting times" in our church and society, let's always place God first in our lives and He will see us through. We may or may not agree with these mandates, but God transcends all of it. He will not let us fail in our faith nor let our church go astray so long as we never forget He is in charge!

Thank you so much for your support and let's do our best to accommodate each other and get through this trying time. Relax...we'll all be fine!

Gratefully in Christ,

Fr. Tom Wissler, Pastor

The Parish Hall and Church will be going through a deep cleaning during this time. While it is okay to be in the Church, we would like for everyone to wait to go into the Parish Hall until this mandate has been lifted. Thank you!

ST. LOUIS ARCHDIOCESES UPDATES... SEE NEXT PAGE

Updates will be posted as they come in.

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March 18, 2020

Moving forward, the following mandates are to apply to the celebration of Mass and the distribution of Holy Communion:

- All public Masses are to cease immediately. There is no exception to this directive. The dispensation which the Archbishop offered to all Catholics in our archdiocese from the obligation to attend Sunday Mass is extended to April 5, at the earliest.
- Churches are to remain open for personal prayer, devotions, and confessions.
- **Holy Communion may be administered to those who are seriously ill or in danger of death, only.**

March 22, 2020

All Holy Week and Easter Masses have been cancelled.

March 26, 2020

New letter from Father Tom on the next page.



St. Joseph Neier

Rev. Thomas J. Wissler, Pastor

March 25, 2020

Dear St. Joe Parishioners,

I hope you are all doing fine with these strange times nowadays. I am looking forward to celebrating Mass this Saturday evening ON LINE! I'm a little nervous but excited. Computer and video technologies are not my strong points, but I'm glad Kelly Zagarri and Sarah Johnson have the ability to make this possible for us. Thanks to Kelly and Sarah! Since my homily is already printed in the bulletin, I will be reading it at this Mass.

Also, there is good news about our tuck pointing project that began several years ago at St. Joe. We now have the funds for the project and have obtained permission from Archbishop Carlson to go ahead with it! The contractor doing the job is Western Tuck Pointing from St. Louis. They've performed many jobs for other churches in the Archdiocese and have been very cooperative with us. They started setting up and staging the project today so if you see equipment and workers around the property, that's what's happening. The work should be completed in about two months! Thanks to the Parish Council and Finance Committee this year and in past years for "getting things going." Our church will look beautiful by summertime, just in time for Homecoming! Also, Josh has been using this time to disinfect just about everything in the hall and church. Many other parishes are doing the same thing with their facilities.

Next Sunday, April 5th is Palm Sunday. Our plan is to live stream another Mass on Saturday evening at 5pm and I will bless palms at that Mass. They will be available for pick-up in the back of church or at the rectory during business hours (8am -4pm).

Thank you and keep the faith. God bless St. Joseph Parish!

Fr. Tom

To be able to view Fr. Tom for 5pm Mass on Saturdays:

- Log into Facebook any time before Mass starts.
- Go to the St. Joseph's Neier Parish, Union MO page to view the live Mass each week.
 - Please refrain from making comments or sending emoji's during Mass. Thank you!!

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