



*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 6<sup>th</sup> 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 26<sup>th</sup> from 9am until 4pm.

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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!