

March 21, 2020

Dear OLH Parishioners:

I've received an update from the Archdiocese of Chicago regarding the Coronavirus situation and Governor Pritzker's shelter-in-place order for the State of Illinois. ***Effective 5 p.m. Saturday, March 21 through Tuesday, April 7 all churches and adoration chapels must be closed and locked until the order is lifted by the governor.***

Private prayer in any parish building must be discontinued until the order is lifted. There can be no live Stations of the Cross or any other gatherings anywhere on parish/school property, nor can any parish personnel be involved in organizing them on any other site.

All weddings and baptisms must be postponed and can be rescheduled only once the order is lifted. There are no exceptions to this, regardless of the size of the group. However, in case of an extreme emergency for baptism, priests will seek permission from his bishop. Funerals and wakes must be postponed until the order is lifted.

At this time, I am trying to arrange a livestream Mass for tomorrow, Sunday at 9 AM. If we are successful in setting this up, there will be a link on our website later tonight—please check back.

Parish offices must be closed until the governor's order is lifted. However, we will keep our food pantry open for service. Please continue to visit our website for updates during this fluid situation.

It is important for us to practice responsible "social distancing;" it will lead to saving lives. Each year it's appropriate for us to go out into the desert of Lent to renew our relationship with the Lord; right now it is especially appropriate for us to, in healthy ways, distance ourselves from others for the sake of their health and ours.

Let us continue to pray for all the sick and those who care for them. I pray that this is a time for all of us to draw closer to the Lord Jesus, to realize our absolute dependence on Him, and to be reminded once again that whoever has Jesus has everything. May the peace of the Lord Jesus be with you always.

God Bless,
Fr. Paul