

Our First Efforts in Fighting the Coronavirus (3/19/20)

Dear Parishioners and Friends,

The coronavirus pandemic has affected everyone and all organizations. As we enter a time where many ordinary routines have been suspended, I want to inform you about how our Parish must change some of the most important parts of our faith life together.

For those who have not seen it, this is the statement of the Diocese that came out on March 16.

Beginning Monday, March 16, 2020 at 3:00 PM, all Masses (weekday and weekend), liturgies, devotions, meetings, and non-essential activities in our parishes are suspended or postponed through Tuesday, April 14, 2020. This will include all Holy Week and Easter Liturgies.

The Diocese also reminds us:

The Catholic Faith Network (CFN) will provide televised and online daily Masses, including Holy Week and Easter Liturgies, as well as other devotional and spiritual programs. (Optimum channel 29/137, Verizon FiOS TV channel 296, and Spectrum channel 162/471.)

This means that St. Margaret of Scotland Church will not be open for Masses or prayer times of any kind (except for funerals) until April 14 (a period that includes Holy Week and Easter).
In line with this directive, the Parish Center will be closed to the public for the same time period.

All the Staff feel terrible that such extreme measures need to be taken, but since no one knows how this virus travels, we need to be as pro-active as possible to hinder the spread of the virus. Thus, the following decisions have been implemented.

- Effective immediately, all Ministries are suspended. This applies to all Faith Formation ministers, all Liturgical ministers, all Outreach ministers, whether they serve at the parish or off our property (e.g., Ministers to the homebound and Ministers of Hope).
- In line with the recommendations from Health authorities, while our Parish Center is closed, our Full-time Staff members will be working remotely, with business being conducted by email, telephonically or electronically, with the goal of being as available as possible to any needs that parishioners bring to us.
- During that time, we will be using the closures to perform a thorough cleaning and disinfecting of the buildings and their contents.

To help us stay connected as a parish family, a link to any vital new information that affects our parish community is on our website [saintmargaret.com] in addition to the weekly online bulletin.

I also encourage you to visit the Diocesan website [drvc.org] for broader information.

Thank you for your love and support of our beloved Parish. The Lord Jesus promised that where two or three are gathered, he is in their midst. As we deal with the pandemic, we might not be able to be together physically, but we can unite ourselves in mind and heart as the Body of Christ. I invite you to use the prayer from St. Ignatius Loyola on the bulletin cover throughout this difficult time, as we pray for each other.

Fr. Jim Wood, Pastor