

Dear Parish Family,

As you may have already heard on the news, the Archdiocese of Indianapolis has released a statement on the suspension of public celebration of Mass. Based on recommendations from health officials concerning the danger of the COVID-19 pandemic and the urgency to stem the spread of the virus, the five Catholic bishops of Indiana have suspended all Sunday and weekday Masses beginning Wednesday, March 18, until further notice.

The archbishop and some of the priests on his staff will be making online Masses available soon. Please visit the homepage of the archdiocese, www.archindy.org, for more information.

During a time of prayer on Sunday or while viewing the Mass on T.V. or online, you are encouraged to make an act of Spiritual Communion. This beautiful devotional practice in the Church is a real source of grace in communion with our Lord. Below is an example of a prayer for spiritual communion:

My Jesus, I believe that You are present in the Most Holy Sacrament. I love You above all things, and I desire to receive You into my soul. Since I cannot at this moment receive You sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart. I embrace You as if You were already there and unite myself wholly to You. Never permit me to be separated from You. Amen.

The following is from the communication provided by the Archdiocese:

- Out of an abundance of caution perpetual adoration chapels should remain closed until further notice.
- Decisions about the celebrations during Holy Week and beyond will be made in the coming days.
- As to the celebration of other Sacraments, whenever possible any scheduled celebrations should be postponed until further notice. This includes the celebration of the Sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation, and Holy Matrimony.
- Finally, the celebration of funerals should be postponed whenever possible. If a funeral is offered, then it should be celebrated outside of Mass and in the presence of a very small number of the faithful who practice the prescribed precautions for hygiene and social distancing. A Mass for the intention and the repose of the soul of the deceased may be offered privately by the priest.

As it pertains specifically to Little Flower parish, the following decisions were made by the parish staff:

- The penance service for Thursday, March 19, has been canceled.
- All remaining Fish Frys have been canceled.
- Lenten Stations of the Cross and Communion Services have been canceled.
- Confessions will not be heard until further notice.
- All parish meetings and gatherings are suspended until further notice.
- The Parish Office will be closed to the public through at least April 5. During this time you may call the parish office with questions Monday-Friday from 9:00 a.m. until 12:00 noon.

- The Theresean (bulletin) will be sent to parishioners weekly via e-mail, and it will be posted on our website, www.littleflowerparish.org, on a regular basis. You may also check www.discovermass.com for the bulletin. If you know anyone who does NOT have e-mail and would like a copy mailed to their home, please ask them to call the parish office between 9:00 a.m. and 12:00 noon Monday-Friday.
- Fr. Bob will celebrate Mass privately for scheduled intentions. Check the Theresean for information on intentions.
- The Church will remain available for personal prayer. If you need the door code for access, please call the parish office.
- We are committed to taking care of our employees during this difficult time. As we are committed to supporting them, we hope you will, as much as possible given your own personal situation, continue to support us. We welcome you to mail your regular Sunday contributions to the parish office, or you may go online to make a contribution using the following link: <http://www.littleflowerparish.org/get-involved-and-give-back/donation-opportunities/>. If you would like to establish automatic contributions, you may do so using the link, or you may fill out the attached form and send to the parish office.
- We will be checking on our elderly parishioners regularly. If you know of a parishioner with needs, please contact the parish office, and we will do our best to help them.

We will continue to update you as new information becomes available. In the meantime, let us continue to pray for those affected by COVID-19, whether it be physically, emotionally, spiritually, or financially.

Do not fear, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name: you are mine.

When you pass through waters, I will be with you; through rivers, you shall not be swept away.

When you walk through fire, you shall not be burned, nor will flames consume you. For I, the LORD, am your God, the Holy One of Israel, your savior. (Isaiah 43:1-3)

Sincerely,

Little Flower Parish Staff