

13 March 2020

Dear Parishioners & Friends:

There's a saying "I do not know what the future holds, but I know who holds the future." These words address the times in which we are living. We don't know what COVID-19 has in store for our community. We do know that we are in the hands of a loving God, and as such, there's hope.

We want to share our current plans for our Pastorate of St John's and St Joseph's. Please know our plans are subject to change as conditions evolve and updates are made available.

The changes listed below are based upon Governor Hogan's emergency declaration, recommendations from Archbishop Lori, and discussions with various parishes in our region. What follows has been made in careful, responsible consideration for the safety and wellbeing of our parishioners as well as our wider Frederick community.

WEEKEND & DAILY MASSES:

In light of the growing uncertainty of the coronavirus in our area, this weekend (March 14-15, 2020) and the following weekend (March 21-22, 2020), **all weekend Masses at both St. John the Evangelist AND St. Joseph-on-Carrollton Manor WILL BE SUSPENDED.** Furthermore, Archbishop Lori has granted a **dispensation** to all the faithful of the Archdiocese of Baltimore from the obligation to attend Mass until further notice.

Fr. Kevin and Fr. John will celebrate this Sunday's Mass for the people of the Pastorate, and a **video recording of that Mass will be available beginning at 9AM on Sunday, March 15.** We plan to continue our preaching series on "Approaching Authenticity" and focusing on "Thirst." The recording will be found by clicking on the below link: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCbQH-rUq-nKR1QfDfaegmBA>

Daily Masses at both St. John's and St. Joseph's are cancelled for the coming week (March 16-20). In addition, both parish churches will be closed to the public during the upcoming week.

In the meantime, the **Mass readings and video reflections** for each day may be found at <http://www.usccb.org/bible/readings/>

PASTORAL VISITS AND MINISTRIES:

We are asking that **all pastoral visits** on behalf of the parishes to skilled care facilities, hospitals, and the homebound, **cease until further notice.** Therefore, all individuals and groups involved in these parish-based outreach ministries are directed to suspend their operations until further direction. We have received input and guidance from various healthcare facilities indicating that this approach is appropriate at this time.

PARISH/PASTORATE PREVENTION:

As we have previously communicated, our parish staff and personnel are working diligently to ensure that our facilities and public areas at both parishes are regularly sanitized. We are striving to adhere to the best practices regarding wiping down surfaces, maintaining adequate distancing, and monitoring the attendance at events in conformity with the recent order of the Governor of Maryland.

PARISH/PASTORATE EVENTS:

Stations of Cross will be held for the **final** time during this Lenten season today, Friday, March 13, at both St. John's and St. Joseph's.

Fish Fries at St. John's are henceforth cancelled.

The **final** Lenten **Fish Fry** at St. Joseph's will be held tonight, Friday, March 13.

The **offices** at both parishes are to remain **open**, with reevaluation to occur on Tuesday, March 17, 2020.