

March 18, 2020

My Dear Parishioners,

We are certainly living in an unusual challenging time. Even those of us who are strong in faith are feeling uneasy and uncertain as we navigate through this COVID-19 virus crisis.

The Celebration of Mass as we know it in the Diocese will change in light of the recent events and our obligation to protect the most vulnerable and promote the common good. Attendance at Mass will not be available to the general public as mandated by Bishop Libasci. We have also closed our Adoration Chapel.

We realize the distress and disappointment many will feel; as Catholics, we have always turned to our faith in time of crisis. God and His Church are always there. Even when we can't leave our homes to attend Mass or visit the Blessed Sacrament, we are not alone. God is always with us, and we are a community of faith. There are many ways we can practice our faith and support each other during this time.

First and foremost, I am here for your spiritual and pastoral needs. Please feel free to call me if you are feeling anxious and need to talk.

Although we will not be celebrating Mass in public, I will be privately celebrating Mass daily and will pray for the Mass intentions, as well as for all of us. Masses that are televised (Boston Catholic Television, EWTN) or live streamed by computer or broadcast by radio are specifically designed for the sake of the people who are homebound. Be sure to visit our website, we will post a recording of one of our weekend Masses every Sunday.

www.BlessedSacramentNH.org

Bishop Libasci has encouraged us to open our churches for people to come and pray. Effective immediately, Blessed Sacrament will be open daily from 3-6pm. We ask that people spread out and respect the 6 foot distancing suggested by the CDC. This will be a time for quiet prayer.

Please be assured we are disinfecting the church on a regular basis. We ask that you bring your own hand sanitizers and use them upon entering and exiting the church. Our supply is on back order.

We will produce a limited bulletin each week and post to our website. This will include the Pastor's Corner, Mass intentions, 300 Club winners for the week and any possible updates. It will also include the weekly Lenten Insert so you can continue your Lenten journey. If you are unable to access the web, please call Lisa and she will mail you a copy of the bulletin.

I encourage you to take this time and focus on ways to make this part of your Lenten sacrifice and increase your prayer time. Pray the rosary, Divine Mercy Chaplet, read the Bible, or any other devotional that will bring you comfort. Pray for those that are suffering from this crisis. Pray as a family. Use facetime/skype to pray with your friends & neighbors. Call those who are alone and pray together over the phone.

Faith Formation has been cancelled for March 22nd and will be reviewed on a weekly basis. All social activities in the hall have been suspended (Boy Scouts, Cub Scouts, Memorial Meals, Coffees, etc.). Small group meetings will be addressed individually (Finance Committee, Pastoral Council, Prayer Shawl, etc.)

We are asking you to limit your visits to the parish office. If possible, please conduct business via phone or email. At times, the staff may work remotely from home. Call before you come to the parish office.

Also, if anyone needs the Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick contact me.

I am also asking you to remember our parish financially during this time. We rely on the weekly collection to meet our daily operating needs (utilities, payroll, insurances, repairs, supplies, etc.). Even though we will not be together at Mass, please consider sending in your offertory via mail, in person or please, utilize our online giving system. We still need you to maintain our parish.

We will utilize our website and facebook page to post updates and helpful links.
www.blessedsacramentnh.org <https://www.facebook.com/Blessed-Sacrament-Parish>

Enclosed is a copy of the letter from Bishop Libasci and information for online giving.

Please visit the Diocesan website which has a page devoted to the latest information and updates on the Coronavirus:

www.catholicnh.org/community/outreach/health-care/coronavirus

It is important at times like this that we heed the suggestions from CDC, but also turn to God in prayer for healing and comfort.

I will be remembering all of you in my prayers and ask the same of you. May we use this sacrifice as a time to walk and carry our Lenten cross with Jesus.

Faithfully Yours in Christ,

Rev. John J. Bucchino, OFM
Pastor

Suggested tv channels to view Mass and other Catholic programs:

CatholicTV (channel 268 on Comcast)

EWTN (channel 56 on Comcast)

Suggested Catholic radio stations livestreamed

Relevant Radio: <https://relevantradio.com/>

Stations of the Cross <https://www.thestationofthecross.com/stations/boston/>

Suggested Websites for Daily & Lenten prayers/programs

Catholicnh.org (Diocese of Manchester)

Ewtn.org

LTP.org

Catholic.org