

An important message from Fr. Johns re: Masses at the parish

3-16-2020

Dear Parishioners,

All the priests of the Diocese received this message from the Bishops of Ohio today. ***"After serious consideration of the grave health risk involved in public gatherings and in order to curb the spread of the coronavirus, the bishops of Ohio have decided, effective immediately, to suspend temporarily all publicly celebrated Masses/liturgies, at least through the celebrations of Holy Week and Easter. The bishops of Ohio dispense the Catholic faithful who reside in their respective dioceses and all other Catholics currently in Ohio from the obligation of attending Sunday Mass through Easter Sunday. This decision is not taken lightly and, as your bishops, causes us great sadness. However, after consultation with the governor and health officials we are convinced that this is the most prudent and necessary action. Science has proven that participation in public gatherings significantly increases the risk of contagion. This poses a serious danger to those especially most vulnerable."***

This decision causes great sadness for me as well but I trust that our religious leaders carefully considered everything and made the decision, with God's help and

guidance; to do what they believe is best for the people of God. I mentioned in my homily on this past Sunday that we need to trust that the Lord is truly in our midst and He will help us. We need to work together and support one another and not grumble or complain as did the Israelites in the desert when there was no water to be found. Grumbling only clouds our ability to see that the Lord is truly in our midst.

I am in the process of exploring how we can livestream Mass at the parish each day and make it available to you on face book and/or at the parish website. I hope to have that information in the next couple of days. I hope to also have materials available at the parish for you to use in your home to keep the Lord's day holy. Let us continue to pray for one another as we adjust to the demands placed on all of us by the coronavirus, especially those who are ill and those who are caring for them. God bless us all.