

## **A MESSAGE FROM FR. JOHNS & THE DIOCESE OF CLEVELAND:**

Today, March 12, 2020 Gov. Mike DeWine issued an executive order regarding the avoidance of large mass gatherings to help limit the spread of COVID-19 in Ohio. Even though religious gatherings are expressly excluded in the order, the Catholic bishops of Ohio -- out of concern for the common good and the physical as well as spiritual well-being of all of the people of Ohio -- have agreed to cooperate with the governor's direction to create "social distance."

**Therefore, Catholic faithful who reside in Ohio and all other Catholics currently in Ohio are dispensed from the obligation of attending Sunday Mass for the weekends of March 14-15, March 21-22 and March 28-29.**

Out of charity and concern for our brothers and sisters in Christ, we encourage all the faithful, in particular those who are sick, experiencing symptoms of illness, or are at risk of illness to seriously consider refraining from Mass attendance. Our **parish Mass schedule will remain unchanged** to allow the faithful to offer worship to almighty God and receive the great grace of the sacraments during this trying time. Those who choose to attend Mass on those weekends will see that the sign of peace will be omitted, the holy water fonts will be empty, and communion from the cup will not take place. Celebrants and communion ministers will carefully wash their hands before Mass and use hand sanitizers before distribution of Holy Communion.

All other parish gatherings of 100 people are to be cancelled until further notice. This includes fish fries and other parish social, athletic or other non-liturgical or non-sacramental events of over 100 people. The parish elementary school, All Saints of Saint John Vianney, will be closed from Monday, March 16, to Friday, April 3. PSR classes also have been cancelled for that period of time.

Breakfast with the Easter Bunny has been cancelled on April 5, as has the Easter Egg Hunt on April 4. The Mission Circle Bake Sale has been postponed and the Easter Meal for the Homebound will take place at another time as well.

Please continue to reference the parish and the diocesan websites for continuing updates on the Church's response to the coronavirus situation and note that the Diocese of Cleveland offers Mass on television on Fox 8 every Sunday at 6 a.m., and Mass can be viewed on a number of cable channels including ETWN, and heard on AM 1260 radio, The Rock. Check local listings.

Please join us in praying for all who are suffering from illness or disease of any kind, and for an easing of the tension caused by this situation. May Our Lady of Lourdes, health of the sick and Mother of Mercy, intercede for us, and may the Holy Spirit continue to guide and protect us all.