

Attached is a letter from Bishop McKnight sent earlier today. The letter can also be viewed at <https://mailchi.mp/b4f41b747b2d/diocese-of-jefferson-city-suspends-public-masses-other-events?e=c17f14b708>

The following items are detailed below...

- Suspension of all public Masses from March 18th through April 3rd.
- Suspension of Parish Penance Services until further notice.
- Suspension of all Public gatherings at the Parish until further notice.
- Restricted protocol guidelines for Funerals, call if needed.

What we are able to do and called upon to do...

- Father to pray the Mass in private.
- Bishop request Sunday prayer, 30 -45 minutes. Viewing Mass on TV / Internet, and/or personal reading of Sunday scripture.
- Chapel will be open 10:00 AM – 3:30 PM for private prayer on the days the office is open.
- Office will remain open from 8 AM – 4 PM
- Anointing of sick individually, if needed.
- Confessions, individually by appointment.
- The Parish is still in need of your tithing. You can mail it to 176 Marian Dr. Gravois Mills MO 65037, or set aside and bring to parish office when able.
- Leader and participants for Disaster Responder Team (DRT)
- Bulletin available online at <https://www.stpatrickcatholicchurch.org/bulletin>
- Health expectations and guidelines as published by the Diocese at Jefferson City. <https://diojeffcity.org/blog/2020/03/17/updated-liturgical-protocols-for-public-health-safety/>
- Community For Christ Thrift Shop is closed at this time. Those on the DRT will work with this organization in assisting the needs of the community.

In Short, all public Masses will be suspended beginning March 18th through April 3rd at this time. Therefore all Penance Services and public gatherings have been suspended as well. Any **funerals** that may need to be celebrated will follow the restricted protocol guidelines. Call the parish office if needed.

Fr. Schmitz will continue to pray the **Mass in private** remembering the Mass Intention along with the many needs of the world. The Mass is the re-presentation of Christ's sacrifice, and each Mass benefits the Church and the whole world, living and dead. We can always be united spiritually to the Mass with all the angels and saints.

The Bishop suggest we spend time remembering the Sunday obligation with, at least 30 – 40 minutes set aside reflecting in prayer with Sunday Scripture or finding Mass **online streams and videos here:** diojeffcity.org/blog/2...
. EWTN is available through most cable networks and online. Mass times can be found at <https://www.ewtn.com/tv/weekly-grid>.

If you wish to have a one on one reconciliation, or anointing of the sick, with Fr. Schmitz, please contact the parish office at (573) 374-7855 to set up an appt.

To assist our local community and response to Bishop McKnight's request, we are in need of putting together a **Disaster Responder Team (DRT)** of volunteers. Individuals may be tasked to assist in delivering food, medication, transportation needs or whatever need that may arise while working with local non-Catholic organizations. We are in need of a TEAM Leader/Coordinator and volunteers for this team. The form and list of action items can be found at <https://diojeffcity.org/parish-disaster-responders-team-volunteer-form> or call the parish office to sign up. **We are Better Together when we share our talents.**

Community For Christ Thrift shop will be closed until further notice. However, if food or financial services are needed, they can be contacted at 374-4425. Request will be handled Tuesday, Thursday or Saturday between the hours of 10 AM and 2 PM. The DRT team will work with this organization in assisting as needed to provide support to our community.

You are encouraged during this time to make a **morning offering**, such as the following, to unite your day to the offering of the Mass:

*O Jesus,
through the Immaculate Heart of Mary,
I offer You my prayers, works,
joys and sufferings
of this day for all the intentions
of Your Sacred Heart,
in union with the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass
throughout the world,
in reparation for my sins,
for the intentions of all my relatives and friends,
for the sick, the vulnerable, and those who care for them. Amen.*

You are also encouraged to make an act of **spiritual Communion** frequently, expressing to the Lord your desire to be united with him even when receiving Communion sacramentally is not possible:

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