



Blessed Savior Catholic Church
8607 W. Villard Ave.
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March 25, 2020

Dear Parishioners,

I hope everyone is hunkering down as we wait for the Coronavirus crisis to pass. It is a very difficult and challenging time for you as individuals and for the parish community. We may not all agree with the decisions the Church has made so far in response to this crisis, but we need to understand that they are meant for the good of the community. There is no sense in creating an environment where this deadly virus would thrive. Our understanding of the seriousness of the situation manifests our love of God and neighbor. We ought to look out for one another. When this crisis passes, we will reconvene to celebrate of our faith. Meanwhile, we need to pray for one another and for those in the frontlines of the worldwide defense against this virus.

Archbishop ListECKI has provided updated guidelines in our fight against the spread of Coronavirus. They are as follows:

- Chrism Mass will be postponed until a later date. Once the pressing health crisis has passed, Chrism Mass will be scheduled for the faithful to gather in thanksgiving.
- The suspension of public daily and Sunday Mass throughout the archdiocese continues.
- The distribution of Holy Communion is permitted only as Viaticum (for the dying). Other practices of “private” distribution may not take place.
- The 12 hours of Reconciliation throughout the archdiocese scheduled for April 1 has been postponed.
- Public celebrations of Holy Week and the Triduum, Holy Thursday, Good Friday, Easter Vigil are canceled. The celebration of these services at the Cathedral will be live-streamed.
- Easter Sunday Masses are canceled in all parishes. The celebration at the Cathedral will be live-streamed.
- Baptisms of the Elect and receptions into full communion across the archdiocese are postponed until a later diocesan-wide, common date.
- Celebration of the Stations of the Cross are canceled.
- Confirmations and First Communion are postponed until the health crisis has passed.
- The \$150 million Capital Campaign of the Archdiocese has been suspended.
- Parish or school building projects are put on hold.
- The Spring Assembly of Priests scheduled for early May has been canceled.
- With the new restrictions from Governor Evers, it will be a challenge to celebrate funerals the way people might like. Funerals are to be delayed if possible.

I will like to add that the planned celebration of the 25th Anniversary of my priestly ordination on May 24th has been postponed. A new date will be announced when the crisis is over. I thank Yolanda Coly and the planning committee for the work they have done so far.

Our parish office will be closed as we await an end to the crisis. Parish staff will work remotely as much as possible. The phone line will remain open and checked regularly for emergencies.

As you know, a huge portion of our parish budget comes from Mass offertory and envelope contributions. With the cancellation of Masses, our parish budget is in peril. A generous parish couple sent in unsolicited check of \$2,000 to help cover costs during this difficult time. I am very grateful to the couple and those who have kick-started this spirit of generosity in this time of crisis. Our buildings still need to be heated to the minimum to avoid damage, snow needs to be removed (though weather is warming up), grass cutting is around the corner, brushes need to be trimmed, staff need to be paid, and so on. Though Masses, meetings and events are canceled, the parish still needs to be maintained to avoid looking abandoned.

Please, consider continuing your e-fund contributions and send in your weekly envelope contributions to assist in the maintenance of our parish in this time of crisis. We will dig into our savings if necessary, but they are tied up in CDs that carry discouraging penalties for early withdrawal. Other drastic measures may include laying off staff and that would cause further pain.

Let us continue to pray for one another and check up on one another through phone calls. The Church has been through similar crisis in the past and survived. There is no reason to think it will be any different this time. Fear is not the appropriate response. We trust that God will get us through.

Be strong and stay safe!

Blessings,

Rev. Romanus N. Nwaru
Pastor