

## Coronavirus Announcements

March 29, 2020

We've been asked by our governor to take this next step with his "stay-at-home" executive order. Understandably, we may feel a little anxious and fearful about being physically separated from loved ones and the community. We even feel anxious and fearful with the uncertainty of the future. But let us take courage in God's holy Word:

**"But those who hope in the LORD will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; They will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint." Is 40:31**

And also:

**"For I know the plans I have for you," declares the LORD, "Plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future." Jer 29:11**

Bishop Kettler, along with the other Minnesota bishops, was involved in a conference call with Gov. Walz and they want to support the governor in his efforts to contain the spread by asking people to stay home.

At this time, the parish offices will be closed to visitors. Secretaries will continue essential tasks such as payroll services, paying invoices and producing bulletins, per instructions of Bishop.

Fr. Botzet and I continue our commitment to providing pastoral care as much as possible during this pandemic. You may call us for the sacraments of Anointing of the Sick, Confession, or other individual needs. We will also be celebrating private Masses every day for all the currently scheduled Mass intentions and for God's blessing upon our community and the whole world. See our live-stream Mass schedule on our website!

**Please join us online!** As a Haven of Mercy Area Catholic Community, Fr. Jimmy and I are availing our parishes of a new and powerful tool called "Flocknote". This gives you access to Bishop Robert Barron's *Word on Fire* library along with receive emails and updates from Fr. Jimmy and me. All this you can do by registering your email address with us by going to our parish website and follow the simple instructions from Flocknote.

Please join us for live-stream Masses for Holy Week! We have three seminarians staying in our rectory through May to finish their online studies through their colleges. They will help us with celebrating our Holy Week liturgies. We plan on streaming from each parish over Holy Week.

**Diocesan Directions: (per Bishop Kettler's letter to Pastors, March 27, 2020)**

- Livestreaming of Masses: will continue under the governor's stay-at-home executive order. Only essential people may participate in person. Bishop Kettler asks that those participating on-site be limited to 5 people total. Private Masses are to continue.
- Sacrament of Anointing: It may be provided if requested by patient/resident in a care facility by the resident or their family AND if clergy have permission from the healthcare facility.
- Church Buildings: Are to remain CLOSED for Adoration or other prayer. Bishop understands this to be consistent with the parameters of the governor's stay-at-home executive order.
- Blessed Palms: Are not to be made available during this period of stay-at-home.
- Divine Mercy: Will come at a time where likely there will continue to be restrictions. We need to plan on cancelling these services. If the situation changes, Bishop Kettler will let us know.

In Christ, Fr. Ben