



HOLY FAMILY CHURCH

a loving family.

March 16, 2020

Dear Holy Family Parishioners and Friends,

Today Bishop Lucia ordered that all public Masses throughout the Diocese of Syracuse be suspended immediately (I have attached his letter to this email). As you can imagine, this was a very difficult decision for our Bishop to make. I stand by him wholeheartedly in making this decision and pray that these efforts will help to prevent, in some way, the spread of the coronavirus. Yesterday, the Center for Disease Control announced that no gatherings of 50 people or more should take place. The notion of "social distancing" is the best way to limit the disease. As a Church, we want to do everything we can to assist in this effort for everyone's health and well-being. If you are saddened by not being able to come to Mass, I want you to know that you are not alone. As a priest, this hurts me deeply as I was ordained to bring the sacraments to the people. Yet, I fully understand the necessity of suspending Masses and public prayer for the time being. Now is the time for us to turn to God and, even though we are not gathering as a community, to be communal in lifting our prayers to the Lord for ourselves, each other, and all suffering throughout the world. You might say this is our "Lenten Fast" and while it hurts, God will use it in some way for His greater glory!

For now, I invite you to visit our website, www.holyfamilysyr.org to view our live stream daily Mass, Stations of the Cross, and weekend Mass(es). I don't think we will be doing all six weekend Masses since there will be no congregation, but as soon as we determine the schedule, I will let you know. All we do in church will be live streamed so you can be a part of as much as the Masses/Prayers as you would like.

In addition, I humbly and respectfully ask you to please continue your weekly support of our parish. Your support will help us to continue to pay our heat and electricity bills and to continue to run our food pantry, offer our live stream Masses and prayer services, and help us continue to pay our support staff and workers. I know this is a lot to ask, but you are so generous to Holy Family and I know you won't back down now.

Be assured of my prayers for all of you, your families, and your loved ones. Let's continue to pray, even in the privacy of our own homes, that God will deliver us from this illness. I ask you to please keep me, our priests, deacons, seminarians, religious sisters, and parish and school staff in your prayers.

May God, in His abundant goodness, bless each of us with peace, happiness, and good health. Know of my love, gratitude, and prayers in these days.

Blessings always,

Father Manno



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