



THE CATHEDRAL BASILICA OF THE ASSUMPTION

March 22, 2020

Dear Parishioners,

I pray that you are healthy and doing well during these difficult and uncertain days. Bishop Foys and the Cathedral clergy are praying for you every day especially as we each celebrate daily Mass. Please pray for us. I want to try and keep you informed of things that are happening at the parish level by way of a newsletter. We will not have printed bulletins for the time being, so I hope you will find this mode of communication helpful. In accordance with diocesan directives, to help mitigate the spread of COVID19 various, protocols have been put into place diocesan wide to help safeguard the health and well being of the people of our Diocese. Below are various points of information:

- In accordance with diocesan protocols all public celebrations of the Mass and Sacraments are suspended until further notice and the Curia and all Parish Offices are closed from **March 20 thru April 3**. Parish Secretaries are permitted to work at the parish on a given day for a short time to perform essential tasks such as to keep the books and pay invoices. Please visit the diocesan website – www.covdio.org, and parish website – www.covcathedral.com for the most update information.
- Our St. Vincent DePaul Conference has rallied to create a revised plan of action to continue delivering food, vouchers and help with rent to those in need without entering homes or making any physical contact. The poor need our help more now than ever and we want to continue to serve them as long as we can. Fr. Norton is also working with some parishioners on a plan to reach out to parishioners who may need assistance at this time. If you need assistance, or you know of any parishioners, who do please contact Fr. Norton.
- The Basilica hours have changed. Until further notice the Basilica will be open **Monday – Saturday from 9 am – 11 am** for private prayer and adoration of the Blessed Sacrament. We will continue to broadcast the 4:30 pm Saturday Vigil Mass online via live stream on the parish website and on television on MeTV at 5:00 pm Sundays. All scheduled Mass intentions will be said by the parish clergy. Bishop Foys, Fr. Shelton, Fr. Norton and I are each celebrating Mass daily to fulfill the Mass intentions and for the needs of the people.
- During this difficult and unprecedented time when the public celebration of Mass and the Sacraments is suspended because of the outbreak of COVID-19, parishes will most certainly experience a decline in the amount of church support received each week. In addition to the many concerns that people have at this time, as they continue to provide for themselves and their families, I ask all parishioners to consider making use of electronic giving online. It is a fast, efficient, and safe way to give church support. It takes only a couple of minutes to set up on our parish website. Parishioners who are not already using online giving may consider mailing their church support directly to the Parish Office (1101 Madison Avenue, Covington KY 41011). The parish will continue to count on the generous and thoughtful financial support of parishioners and during these difficult days so that the parish bills can continue to be paid. Thank you for any support you can continue to give.

Please pray for an end to this pandemic and for all who are suffering from it. Let us pray for each other and place ourselves in the Lord's hands. May the Lord bless you and keep you safe. ----- Fr. Maher 