March 20, 2020

A Message to St. Louis King of France Parish and School

Everyone’s lives have changed in the last week as we respond to the COVID19 health concerns and these changes extend to our parish as well. Our civic officials have limited public gatherings and our Bishop officially suspended public Masses during these times. These measures are here to save lives and, please God, these sacrifices will accomplish their goal.

With all this in mind, I want to state emphatically that **Church is not cancelled, Church is adjusted.** St Louis staff met this week to figure out how our liturgies and our ministries will continue to accomplish our mission even without public gatherings. Below, you will see a list of updates, describing how we continue to do the works of God during this time. As the situation changes, we announce further adjustments.

As a final note, I am asking the parish of St Louis to pray for the Spirit’s gifts. **With God, we do not simply endure in crisis. With God, we are stronger than this crisis.** Over the centuries, the Church has not only endured but thrived in circumstances much worse than what we currently face. Now, as much as any time in history, we should confidently pray for the Holy Spirit to empower our Church with his gifts: Love, Joy, Peace, Patience, Kindness, Goodness, Faithfulness, Gentleness, and Self-Control (Gal 5:22-23).

My prayers are with you and your families during this time.

       Blessings. FrM
Sacraments

Eucharist and Mass. In accordance with our Bishop, public Masses are suspended. The faithful are dispensed from the obligation to attend Mass on Sunday or other holy days of obligation and are asked to make other acts of spiritual devotion. Though not equivalent to attending Mass in person, our parish will broadcast live 9:30 AM Mass in English and 1:30 PM Mass in Spanish on Sundays. These recordings will be live streamed on our Facebook page and posted to our Parish Website.

Confession. Confessions will be held at their regularly scheduled times in the confessional: Tuesday & Thursday 11:15 AM till Noon / Thursday 5:00 PM till 6:00 PM / Saturday 8:30 AM till 10:00 AM / Saturday 3:30 PM till 4:30 PM. Penitents are encouraged to go to confession behind the screen.

Anointing of the Sick. The parish priests will continue to answer emergency calls regarding anointing of the sick, last rites, and death calls. Please call the parish office and follow directions to the emergency phone number.

Baptisms. Baptism will be scheduled through the office. We will arrange a time for each family to come for the baptism, with the limited number of people authorized by city ordinance.

Funeral Mass. Funerals will be scheduled upon request and celebrated with the limited number of people authorized by city ordinance.

Weddings and Other Celebrations. We will reach out to previously scheduled weddings and celebrations to provide individual options to celebrate or postpone the service.

Devotions

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament will continue 24/7 as a place of prayer for our parish.

Stations of the Cross is canceled for March 19-20. Starting next week, parishioners can join in Stations of the Cross through video available on our parish website.

Vespers. Sunday Vespers will be premiered every Sunday at 7 PM on our Facebook page.

Finances

The majority of our parish income comes from our Sunday collection. With public Masses suspended, this will create a challenge for the parish as the weeks progress. Please consider mailing your donation or donating online to continue to support St. Louis.
Parish Updates / Events

The parish office will remain closed until March 26th. When the office reopens, it will continue normal operating hours (Monday- Friday 9:00 AM- Noon & 1:00 PM-6:00 PM).

All parish meals are suspended including Fish Fry, Sunday Breakfasts, and Taco Bar.

Coffee with the Collars. Our parish Youtube show returns with a new theme of the Hidden Life of the Holy Family, a spirituality of the domestic Church. Episodes are scheduled to premiere weekly on Mondays and Wednesdays.

The Lenten Series on The Being Church Podcast and Meditations on St. Louis Presents continue every Friday.

St. Louis Catholic School
St. Louis School follows the AISD calendar for closures. Currently, spring break is extended until April 6th. Teaching will continue as plans are in place to allow for distance learning. School staff will be in touch with students and their families with further information.

Religious Education
Catechists will receive training on how to continue supporting this ministry. Our catechetical curriculum has online resources to continue education and there will also be the option for the parents to stop by and pick up printed materials. All participating families will be contacted with further information.

Youth Ministry
Sparks & Young Church. Youth Nights have been canceled until further notice. Youth and their families will receive more information regarding future opportunities.

Lifelong Christian Formation
Sacramental Preparation. RCIA, Confirmation, Marriage Preparation, are Infant baptism preparations will all be moved to online formation.

Catholic Scripture Study. Final session is cancelled.


King’s Men. Content will be delivered electronically, more information to come.

Divine Mercy Cenacle and Women of Faith. Meetings are suspended but leaders will contact their members with further information.
**CREDO study group.** Classes for the Spanish language CREDO bible study group will be held online.

**Hispanic Ministries**
*Movimiento Familiar Cristiano, Grupo Jovenes, Via Crucis, Grupo Oracion, Cenaculos de la Divina Misericordia.* All gatherings are suspended but resources for continuing prayer, education, and ministry are shared through the parish Facebook [Hispanic ministries page](#). Directors of ministries will be in touch with their members regarding future opportunities.

**Cristo Renueva Su Parroquia.** Weekly meetings are suspended and rescheduling the upcoming retreats for Men and Women so that they can plan for the 48th retreat team.

**Social Ministries**
*Food Pantry* will run as long as there are sufficient volunteers, and will welcome guests into the building according to city regulations.

*St. Vincent de Paul Society* office volunteers will continue with regular ministry, using technology as needed to communicate with the neighbors in need.

*Mobile Loaves & Fishes* will run as long as volunteer teams are available and each truck team will be supplied with the proper hygiene items.

**Other ministries**
*All other ministries* of the parish are suspending their public gatherings but leaders will communicate with their members for ways to continue their ministry and mission.