

Dear Catholics of St. John and St. Saviour Region,

We have received a letter from our Archbishop Dennis Schnurr. It goes as follows:

Thursday afternoon Governor Mike DeWine issued an executive order regarding the avoidance of large mass gatherings to help limit the spread of COVID-19 in Ohio.

Even though religious gatherings are expressly excluded in the order, the Catholic bishops of Ohio, out of concern for the common good and the physical as well as spiritual well-being of all of the people of Ohio, have agreed to cooperate with the governor's direction to create "social distance".

To that end, we dispense the Catholic faithful who reside in Ohio and all other Catholics currently in Ohio from the obligation of attending Sunday Mass for the weekends of March 14-15, March 21-22 and March 28-29.

Out of charity and concern for our brothers and sisters in Christ, we encourage all the faithful, in particular those who are sick, experiencing symptoms of illness, or are at risk of illness seriously to consider refraining from Mass attendance. As much as possible, we would like to see parish Mass schedules remain unchanged to allow the faithful to offer worship to almighty God and receive the great grace of the sacraments during this trying time; however, we recognize that this may not be possible because many of our senior priests may themselves be at risk. We ask for understanding and flexibility in this regard.

In regards to all of this, St. John and St. Saviour Parishes will be proceeding in the following manner in these following weeks:

+ ALL Catholics in Ohio and thus including the Archdiocese of Cincinnati are dispensed from their Sunday Mass obligation for the weekends of March 14-15, March 21-22 and March 28-29.**

+Those who are sick or having symptoms of any illness, out of charity towards others, we ask these parishioners to definitely remain at home.**

+ Those who are 60 and over we highly recommend that you do not attend Mass.

+Mass will still be celebrated at St. John and St. Saviour Parishes at their regular times.

+**All Masses** in this Region will be celebrated; however, **without** Choir music, **without** servers, **without** lectors, **without** extraordinary ministers of communion and **without** ushers in order not to oblige them to risk their health in order to assist at Mass.

Also,

+The offertory procession will be suspended.

+The Sign of Peace will be non-contact and no holding hands at the Our Father

+Distribution of Holy Communion via the Chalice will be suspended.

+Collection buckets will be placed at the foot of the sanctuary steps. If you attend the Mass at the Church please drop offerings in these buckets when entering the Church for Mass or immediately after Mass when you are leaving.

**Although you are not obliged to attend Mass (that is you will not incur a mortal sin by missing in this case) may I highly recommend that you pray the Mass at home by viewing it on T.V. or via the internet. You can view Mass by visiting St. Saviour's web site, www.stsaviourparish.org, or (i.e. EWTN broadcasts at 8am and Noon Mass on Sunday's and from the St. Peter in Chains via live-streaming at <https://venue.streamspot.com/arch> on Saturday's at 4:30pm and Sunday's at 8:30am, 11:00am, and 6:30pm. At the proper time in the Mass you may make a spiritual communion in lieu of communion.

I include also this prayer you can say at communion time:

Spiritual Communion Prayer

My Jesus, I believe that You are present in the Most Holy Sacrament. I love You above all things, and I desire to receive You into my soul. Since I cannot at this moment receive You sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart. I embrace You as if You were already there and unite myself wholly to You. Never permit me to be separated from You. Amen.

I thank you for your understanding. Let us stay united in prayer and christian charity as we work through these trying times of our Nation and the world.

Thank you! God Bless!

Fr. Matt Feist