

St. James Parish

80 Hicksville Road
Seaford, New York 11783

(516) 731-3710
Fax: (516) 731-4828

Dear Parishioners,

I hope that at this unprecedented time in our world, each one of you are healthy and safe and are adhering to the directives of Governor Cuomo and our Bishop to stay at home and practice social distancing.

I realize that life as we knew it is at a near halt, which is causing many to be anxious and isolated. Please know that you are in my daily thoughts and prayers and that of our clergy.

In compliance with the Governor's Executive Order, which goes into effect at 8:00 PM on Sunday, March 22nd, Bishop Barres is asking that we observe the following:

- 1) No liturgies will be permitted until further notice. This includes funerals, weddings, baptisms, and any other cause for gathering people together in the Church, other than private prayer.
- 2) Emergency sacraments are permitted, as always, but while exercising the proper health precautions outlined in previous memos.
- 3) Burial services may be offered if possible, while observing all safe distance precautions, and **should be done at the grave-site**. Wake services should no longer be conducted. Remind the faithful that both wakes and funeral (memorial) Masses can be postponed.
- 4) Confessions should not be scheduled but can be conducted when **urgently needed and when requested on a case-by-case basis**. Please observe the safety precautions.
- 5). Anointing of the Sick and the Last Rites may continue in urgent cases, following the safety precautions outlined in previous memos.

Know there are opportunities to participate in Sunday and daily Mass through the following channels and sites, such as, CFN (drvc.org) and EWTN.

Masses are being televised from St. Agnes Cathedral: Monday – Friday: 8:30 AM and 12:30 PM, and Sunday: 11:00 AM and 7:00 PM. on the Catholic Faith Network (Optimum channel 29/137, Verizon FIOS channel 296 and Spectrum channel 162/471). You can watch CFN on ROKU, Apple TV, Amazon Fire TV, Android, or by downloading the CFN iOS mobile app at the app store by searching “Catholic Faith Network” or “CFN”.

In time, this will be over and we will be able to reestablish regular daily living. I am sure that many of you are longing for the opportunity to participate in Mass and to receive the Lord in the Sacrament of the Holy Eucharist.

I recommend to you an *Act of Spiritual Communion* to be said during Communion time when watching Mass or at any time.

***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.***

In addition to Sunday and weekday Mass, the Sacred Triduum and Easter will be broadcast.

To our parishioners young and old, we urge you use this opportunity while at home to pray together, while watching the Mass, praying the rosary, read the Bible, recite grace before meals and nighttime prayers. Included in your intentions certainly, an end to the coronavirus.

Our rectory chapel will be open for private prayer and devotion each day between 9:00 AM and 7:30 PM. In an abundance of safety, I have decided to close the church until these bans are lifted. Thankfully, we have our chapel, a place for quiet prayer, located as part of the rectory building, which will be easier to maintain, clean and disinfect daily.

The parish center will be closed for the foreseeable future. This is for the safety of all, especially, our parish center receptionists and workers who are now working remotely when possible. All **emergency calls** should be made to (516) 353-0578. Please, emergency calls and important inquiries, only.

The move to require all New Yorkers to self-quarantine or practice social distancing (keeping a distance of at least six feet from others) is made for the safety of everyone. The coronavirus is capable of spreading rather quickly. Its spread can be halted, or at least seriously diminished, if we all do our part to wash our hands frequently, to practice social distancing and by remaining home, if possible, only going out to food shop, going to the pharmacy and other very important tasks.

As new information and directives are sent to me, as well as spiritual opportunities through TV and the internet, I will make them available to you via our parish FaceBook page (St. James Parish - Seaford), our parish website. (www.stjamesrcchurch.org) our myParish App. If you have not signed on to Parish App, please do so at this time. We are working on the ability to “livestream” our Sunday Mass so that you can view it on your television or computer.

Lastly, without the celebration of Mass we are also without the usual means of receiving your monetary donations to the parish. Your financial support is absolutely necessary, as we still have salaries to pay, utility bills and wish to continue what we can to help our parishioners and neighbors in special need. This becomes even more serious at this very unsettling time.

May I ask you to mail in your Sunday offertory envelopes (checks and not cash, if possible). It is preferable if you could consider making your support of the St. James Parish and donations electronically. Visit our parish website at www.stjamesrcchurch.org. Just go to Donate Online. The instructions are simple.

I appreciate your understanding at this most difficult time. Please know that I think of you each day, praying for your safety and spiritual well being. Please pray for me, as I remember you in my daily prayers.

Saint James, pray for us,

Fr. John, Pastor