

Dear St. Michael the Archangel Parishioners:

In union with Bishop Thomas and local and state government and health department officials, we, as a parish and school, are taking the coronavirus/COVID-19 outbreak very seriously and encourage others to take necessary precautions in helping to mitigate the spread of this virus.

In accord with an urgent memorandum from Bishop Daniel Thomas to the faithful of the Diocese of Toledo, ***all Catholic faithful who reside in the Diocese of Toledo and all other Catholics currently in the Diocese of Toledo are hereby dispensed from the obligation of attending Sunday Mass for the weekends of March 14-15, March 21-22 and March 28-29.***

In his memo to the faithful, Bishop Thomas continues:

“Out of charity and concern for our brothers and sisters, I urge all of the faithful seriously to consider not attending Mass on these three weekends, in particular those who are sick, experiencing symptoms of illness or are at risk of illness. Those members of the faithful who do not attend Mass on these weekends should devote some time to prayer on the Lord’s Day, either alone or as a family. These faithful are, likewise, encouraged to watch/listen to a broadcast of Sunday Mass via television, radio or internet/streaming and to make a spiritual communion.

In order to allow those faithful who wish to gather and offer worship to almighty God while receiving his solace and reassuring comfort in this time of anxiety and uncertainty, regularly scheduled weekend parish Masses will continue in so far as possible. In accord with the Governor’s order, all other activities and events with a potential attendance of 100 people or more should be cancelled, postponed or rescheduled until further notice.”

So what does this mean for our parish?

In accord with Bishop Thomas’ memo, ***Mass schedules will continue as usual during the course of the next three weeks – including weekday Masses.*** For those who are unable to attend Mass, we will make every effort to continue to livestream one of our weekend Masses – which can be found on our parish website at www.findlaystmichael.org. ***Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament will also continue on Tuesdays and Fridays as long as there remain ample people signed up for adoration – mindful that many of those who take part in adoration are elderly parishioners. Currently, our Wednesday Evening Lenten Programs will continue as less than 100 people attend.***

All activities with the potential attendance of 100 people or more will be cancelled during this time period, including our Discipleship Program (CCD), Stations of the Cross, Lenten Penance Service (March 16) and our Parish Mission (March 23-25). Additionally, FROGS and the 10:00 Sunday Nursery will be suspended at this time.

Obviously, with the announcement made by Governor DeWine this afternoon, our St. Michael School will be closed for three weeks – with meaningful online lessons available for our students.

School families should continue to monitor their emails and text messages from Principal Amy Holzwart for school related advisories and notifications.

We, as parish and school families, continue to offer prayers for all government leaders and those on the frontlines of our medical and healthcare fields as they seek to contain the spread of the coronavirus/COVID-19. Our prayers are with those who have contracted this virus and for the many souls who have already succumbed to this virus – and for their many loved ones and community members who mourn their loss.

I join with you in imploring our loving God and Father for His care and mercy on us all as we look to do our part in helping to stop the spread of this virus. As Christians, we humbly unite any inconveniences and sacrifices we will be making in our daily lives and routines in the coming weeks to the ultimate sacrifice of our Lord Jesus on the cross – a daily reminder to us all that we are united as one in the Body of Christ. As St. Paul so eloquently reminds us when speaking of us as members of Christ's Body, "If one part suffers, all the parts suffer with it; if one part is honored, all the parts share its joy." (I Cor 12: 26)

St. Michael the Archangel...pray for us!

In Christ,

Fr. Mike Zacharias
Pastor