



Dear Brothers and Sisters,

I miss seeing you already, especially as we approach the usual time for our weekend Liturgies. As follow up to the information I sent out earlier during the week, here are answers to some of the recent questions and concerns raised by some parishioners:

1. **What is social distancing?** Social Distancing is keeping at least six feet apart when coming into contact with others.
2. **What is a small circle of contacts?** – This is keeping the people you are in contact with small. This minimizes the number of people who can spread the virus. Ideally, this would be a very small group of people – immediate coworkers and family.
3. **What is minimizing movement?** This is staying in place as much as possible – not visiting or going places other than work and home or for essential needs (food, medication, etc).
4. **What are common symptoms of Coronavirus?** The symptoms include: Fever, cough, difficulty in breathing or shortness of breath. If you are experiencing these symptoms – begin self-isolation and contact your doctor by phone.
5. **Will there be Holy Week and Easter celebrations as scheduled in April?** It is highly likely that we will not be able to publicly celebrate the Holy Week and Easter Masses at the normal time in April this year. This includes the celebration of the Sacrament of Baptism and Rite of Reception at the Easter Vigil. We will decide on another date sometime later in the spring to celebrate some of the Easter Liturgies when a public celebration of Mass is permissible.
6. **What is private Mass?** A private Mass is Mass that is celebrated by the priest alone without the congregation. The current guideline recommends that priests celebrate Mass on a daily basis. It also permits priests to include parish staff but not more than 10 people at the Mass. This will also allow us to continue praying for the scheduled Mass intentions.
7. **Can priests celebrate Mass in private homes for parishioners?** Under the current guidelines, home Masses are not permitted because of the danger of spreading the virus.
8. **Can there be a funeral at this time?** Funerals and burials should be restricted to immediate family and friends only – 10 or less.
9. **Can priests or Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion visit and give Communion to the sick at this time?** The general distribution of Holy Communion to the faithful is not permitted at this time. The faithful are urged to make an act of spiritual communion on a regular basis.
10. **How about Anointing of the Sick?** Anointing of the sick will only be done in danger of death. A protocol for priests visiting private homes and to those who may have been

exposed to the virus or infected is being developed. At this time, we are being told that hospitals may not permit priests to enter. While this is disturbing, they have limited protective gear and must ration how they are being used. Priority is being to health care workers.

- 11. Visiting the sick and the homebound** – This is suspended in order to limit the potential spread of the virus and only done for those in the danger of death.
- 12. Confessions** – We will continue to have Confessions using social distancing protocol. The Confession times remain the same in our parish (5pm-6pm, Fri & 3:30-4:30pm, Sat). We will hold the confession in ANNEX 4. We ask that you enter using the south driveway and remain in your vehicle for the Confession line. The priest sits inside the ANNEX by the door and the penitent sits outside the door with a screen in between. We appreciate your cooperation as you remain in your vehicle while waiting for the person in Confession to exit the Annex.
- 13. Number of people in the Church and Chapels** – Our Church door is open during regular office hours for those who want to offer private prayers inside the Church. We ask that you maintain social distancing when inside, and not more than 10 people in the Church at any time. Please use the hand sanitizer upon entering and leaving the Church.

I am sorry for bothering you with so much information regarding the restrictions from parish Liturgies and events. I was trying to clarify as many common questions as we receive updates from the Diocese and the Centers for Disease Control so we can all be on the same page. Going forward, I will be sending you information and updates on what is going on here in the parish office, and how we are keeping in contact with parishioners and different ministries. Fr Wilfred, Deacon Ed and myself will also be sending you some reflections and offer some suggestions on ways you can nourish your spiritual life during this difficult time.

Thank You and Remain Blessed.

Fr James Aboyi, VC  
Pastor