



IMMACULATE CONCEPTION PARISH

A Message From Our Pastor

The dos and don'ts during this time of the corona virus have been announced by the Federal, State and local government. In conjunction with this massive civic effort, the Archdiocese of Philadelphia has issued its guidelines for the faithful. Included in our bulletin and in this e-mail is the letter by Archbishop Perez to all of us. Please read it carefully so that you have the facts in order to make informed decisions regarding your faith life.

The most notable of the changes for all of us is that weekday and weekend public Masses will not be offered in the diocese until further notice. Last week witnessed a considerably diminished Mass attendance at Immaculate and throughout the diocese because the obligation had been suspended. We now see people postponing weddings and funerals or limiting the size of the event. The diocese is permitting Weddings, Funeral Masses, and Baptisms with due discretion of judgment of all the parties involved.

Visits by extraordinary ministers of the Eucharist to the sick and homebound have been suspended. Hospitals have limited clergy access to patients. For Catholic priests, we will only be summoned to the hospital for the Last Rites.

Our church will remain open during specific hours so that our parishioners may spend some moments in prayer before our Lord in the Blessed Sacrament. Father Sullivan and I will be saying a private Mass daily. The diocese has noted that they are observing the strictest interpretation of a "Private Mass." Simply speaking, it means that the priest offers Mass without a congregation. Given the present situation and not wanting to be neglectful of the health of our parishioners, until further notice, the church will be open from 8:30 AM until 4 PM from Monday to Friday. Father Sullivan and I will have celebrated a "Private Mass" without a congregation by that time. On Saturday and Sunday, the Church will open at 9 AM and remain open until noon. For those wishing to take advantage of the sacrament of Reconciliation, confessions will be heard from 3 PM to 4 PM in the church on Saturdays. Following this period, the church will close. Likewise, on the weekend, Father Sullivan and I will celebrate Mass without a congregation. All Mass intentions will be satisfied.

The Stations of the Cross celebrated on Friday evenings at 7:00 PM are suspended. Obviously, lectors, extraordinary ministers, cantors, and servers will not be functioning in their ministries as all ministries are based on need.

As the situation unfolds, no doubt, changes will be made. Hopefully, with all the measures presently being taken this menace will leave us and we shall be grateful to return to the good old normal way of life. Let us pray for each other!