

Saint Ladislaus Hungarian Roman Catholic Church

March 17, 2020

As you know, religious education classes have been suspended until further notice. Bishop Caggiano has cancelled all Masses in our diocese until at least April 3rd. Father Juan will offer his private Mass for all intentions scheduled up to April 3rd.

Your children's catechists will be in touch with you weekly to be sure that the children are still moving forward in their faith formation, especially those preparing for the sacraments of Communion and Confirmation this year. It is important that they continue on with their religious education assignments from their teachers. If you have any questions, please text Mrs. Forcier at 203-644-8334.

In addition, the First Reconciliation for First Communion Class schedule for Friday, March 27th has been postponed for later in April (Fr. Juan Gabriel will let us know the new date at the end of March). The Easter Egg Hunt scheduled for March 28th is canceled.

The office will be closed starting Wednesday, March 18th until further notice. You still can contact us by phone at 203-866-1867 from Monday to Friday (10am-12pm & 2-4pm)

We also want you to know that Confessions on Tuesdays are canceled. We will be hearing confessions on Saturdays from 2:30 to 3:30pm (*if it changes, we will let you know*).

The Church will be open for private prayer every day from 10 am to 4pm. Holy Exposition of the Holy Sacrament will take place on Fridays at 12 noon. You still can come and pray the Stations of the Cross and offer it for health and blessings of all people throughout the world, especially for those affected by the COVID-19.

Regarding the celebration of funerals: Funeral Rites will be celebrated *Outside Mass*. The priest should see that a Mass for the Dead is celebrated in private for the deceased at the nearest possible date following death, or, if the family desires, a public memorial Mass could be celebrated at a later date for the repose of the soul of the deceased and the consolation of the family.

Even though Mass has had to be cancelled because of the risk of passing on the virus, we as Catholics are still obligated to keep the *Sabbath Holy*. Now, more than ever we must stay close to God. We must all be there for our children who may be nervous or anxious. They need to see that in times of uncertainty or fear, God is walking with them through it all. They can gain strength and peace from Him.

Here are a few suggestions as to how we can continue to keep Sunday holy and provide stability for our families as we move forward during this health crisis.

1. The Mass is still our central act of worship. It is important to find a way to attend Mass together on Sundays. **That is as simple as turning on your TV to Channel 135 at 12 noon and Channel 137 at 7pm.** This is a Catholic channel and in addition to Masses during the day, it can provide other support for your family. Beginning this Sunday, Sunday Mass celebrated also by Bishop Caggiano or Monsignor Powers will be available on our Diocesan Website: <https://www.bridgeportdiocese.org/> or on Diocesan media channels: <https://www.bridgeportdiocese.org/dobsocial/home/>

1. Pray together as a family. Our families need to be praying together now more than ever. Pray for your family, your church, those who are at high risk of catching the virus, those who are already sick and their families. Pray for the doctors, nurses, EMTs, firefighters, police and the National Guard. Pray for our political and medical leaders. Pray for businesses affected. Pray for those who are scared. Pray for people to open their hearts to others and share so that everyone can have what they need. There are so many people who need our prayers right now. Show your children the power of prayer. Please take the time to pray deliberately all together so they can see your faith in action in a crisis.
2. Say the Rosary together as a family. It is so powerful to pray to the Blessed Mother. She is there to bring our petitions to Jesus, and to offer us comfort in very trying times. Pray to the Blessed Mother to watch over all of us and protect our country, our world and us.
3. Open the Bible and read a passage or two together. Immerse yourselves in the word of God. You can also go to [youtube.com](https://www.youtube.com) and look up for the daily readings for Mass

As difficult as this is for everyone, this is also an opportunity for each of us to gain strength from God and our faith; to share our faith with others who need it; to show our children that God is a light with us through the darkness.

“Fear not, for I am with you,
be not dismayed, for I am your God;
I will strengthen you, I will help you,
I will uphold you with my victorious right hand” (Isaiah 41:10).

We will continue to keep all of you and your families in our prayers.

In Christ’s Peace,

Fr. Juan Gabriel, Pastor

Mrs. Donna Forcier, Director of Religious Education