Dear Parishioners,

I sincerely hope all of you are doing well. Please know you and your loved ones are always present in my personal prayers and private Masses. Today, I want to encourage you to trust in our Lord, believe that there is light at the end of the tunnel, and remember that, in the midst of our concerns and fears, we can still be united in prayer knowing that God is always by our side.

As you know, all public and Liturgical services have been suspended until at least April 30th. Therefore, I would like to you keep you informed of the decisions I have made as a result:

- The Church will be open for private prayer **every day from 10 am to 4pm**. We will follow precautionary measures and observe social distancing recommendations as expected of everyone.
- I will continue to offer my private daily Masses for all intentions scheduled through April 30th.
- The Sanctuary Candle remains lit and will be offered as scheduled since The Holy Sacrament is still present in the Tabernacle.
- You can watch daily Masses on several of the following platforms:
  - You can turn on your TV on **Channel 135 at 12n** and **Channel 137 at 7pm**.
  - Sunday Mass celebrated by Bishop Caggiano or Monsignor Powers will be streamed live and available on our Diocesan website: https://www.bridgeportdiocese.org/ or on Diocesan media channels: https://www.bridgeportdiocese.org/dobsocial/home/
- I will be hearing confessions on Saturdays from 2:30 to 3:30pm following strict measures and precautions as provided by our local authorities. Please understand that you should seek the Sacrament of Reconciliation “in-person” **ONLY** in the case of mortal sin which requires absolution. Otherwise, I encourage you to make a sincere Act of Contrition at home and BELIEVE in God’s forgiveness and mercy.
- Once again, I urge you to pray together as a family: for those who are suffering, for those at high risk of infection, for those who are already sick (especially from our own Parish) and for their families, for those who are scared and anxious, for our Church, and for our own protection and well-being. Let us also entrust to God
all doctors, nurses, EMTs, firefighters, police and the National Guard working each day to fight this disease.

**Regarding Holy Week**
Some Liturgical services will be streamed online. A schedule and further information will be published later in the week.

**Regarding the Celebration of Funerals**
Funeral Rites will be celebrated outside Mass *(graveside service ONLY)*. If the family desires, a public memorial Mass could be celebrated later for the repose of the soul of the deceased and the consolation of the family.

**Regarding the Parish Office**
The office is **CLOSED** until further notice. You still can contact us by phone at 203-866-1867 Ext. 11. If I cannot answer the phone, please leave your message and phone number, and I will return you call as soon as I possibly can.

**Regarding CCD (Catechesis)**
- All Religious Ed classes are cancelled.
- **The Ceremony of First Holy Communion, scheduled for Saturday, May 9th, IS CANCELLED.** Unfortunately, I cannot schedule another date just yet. I will have to wait for direction from the Diocese and civil authorities about new procedures for large public gatherings, which we must follow when Church reopens.
- In the meantime, all catechists will keep in touch with you weekly to be sure that the children are still moving forward with their faith formation, especially those preparing for the Sacraments of Communion and Confirmation this year. I want to make sure the children and those preparing for Confirmation will be ready to receive the Sacraments. At my discretion, First Holy Communion might be postponed for next year, if your children are not ready or do not finish the assignments given by the teachers to be completed at home. *Please encourage your children to keep practicing their prayers.* If you have any questions, please text Mrs. Forcier at 203-644-8334 or call the office.
- **The Confirmations Ceremony scheduled for Saturday, June 6th has NOT been cancelled or postponed yet.** This is a decision made by Bishop Caggiano since he is the celebrant. If there is any change, I will notify you immediately.
- Confirmation Prep classes have already received the instruction and materials they need for the final exam. Students were asked to review everything and be ready for a final upon returning to classes. Their “Saint” reports were due March 29th and should have been emailed to their teachers.
- In addition, interviews with the Pastor which were scheduled for April have been cancelled and will not be rescheduled.
• For those receiving the Sacrament Confirmation, service hours will not be required this year.
• Dates for Sponsor Certificates and for Confession will be scheduled upon returning to classes and before receiving Confirmation.
• The lockout of our Youth group scheduled for April 17th has been CANCELLED.

Regarding RCIA
All RCIA Catechumens and Candidates will receive their Sacraments on Saturday, May 30, 2020 at 6:30pm on the celebration of the Pentecost Vigil.

Please be assured I will continue to keep all of you and your families in my prayers.

In Christ’s Peace,
Fr. Juan Gabriel