

13 March 2020

Dear St. Andrew Apostle Parishioners,

Archbishop Gregory has indicated that all Masses open to the public, in ALL archdiocesan parishes will not be celebrated beginning this Saturday, March 14 until further notice. This includes all weekend Masses, daily Masses, and extra Masses such as Masses with Healing Prayers. Weddings and funerals may proceed, but attendance should be limited to immediate family members.

Archbishop Gregory has also issued a dispensation from the obligation to attend Sunday Mass during this time to all parishioners of the Archdiocese of Washington. This means that missing Mass during this current state of emergency does not carry the weight of sin. "Please know that this decision does not come lightly to close our schools or cancel Masses," Archbishop Gregory said.

Here are some important points regarding St. Andrew Apostle:

- The church will remain open for private prayer daily from 8AM to 8PM.
- ALL Masses will be celebrated privately in accordance with the archdiocesan mandate. The Mass intentions already requested will be honored at those private Masses.
- To aid your private prayer, Father Dan will be recording homilies and other meditations for distribution on our website.
- The school will be deep-cleaned over the next 2 weeks and will be closed to all groups with the exception of Men's Group THIS Saturday morning. All small groups that meet in the school can either reschedule to a different location, or cancel their meetings. (Group Leaders will be in touch with each group to discuss options.) Members are under no obligation to attend meetings.
- Restrooms in the school will be unavailable while the school is closed over these next 2 weeks.
- All small groups that meet in the Rectory can still meet at the Group Leader's discretion. (Group Leaders will be in touch with each group to discuss options). Members are under no obligation to attend meetings.
- Resources for family prayer at home and a beautiful Spiritual Communion Prayer will be provided in print at the back of the church and on our website.

Here are the upcoming opportunities for private prayer in the Church **in the next 48 hours**. We will send another Flocknote in a few days with an updated schedule beyond Sunday evening.

Private devotions (Rosaries, Divine Mercy Chaplet, etc.) are most welcome at any time that the Church is open.

Friday Evening: Stations of the Cross 7PM followed by Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament from 7:30PM-Midnight. Spiritual Talks by Father Dan, Private Prayer. Benediction at 11:30PM. (We are cancelling the pizza party prior to Stations.)

Saturday Morning: Men's Group (as scheduled – will meet tomorrow, March 14, in the APR – future meeting locations are TBD)

Saturday Morning: Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament and Spiritual Talk by Father Dan from 9AM to 10AM (in lieu of Mass). All are welcome. The Women's Day of Reflection with Rose Heimann from PeaceCYCLE is postponed to a later date (TBD). Fees will be refunded.

Saturday Morning: Institute of Theology (as scheduled in the Rectory)

Saturday Afternoon/Evening: Confessions from 4PM to 5PM. Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament (in lieu of Mass) from 5PM to 6:30PM. All are welcome.

Sunday Morning/Afternoon: Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament (in lieu of Masses) from 8:30AM to 12:30PM with Confessions available. Adoration and Prayers of Healing and Covering with the Blessed Replica of Mary's Mantle from 2PM to 3:30PM (as scheduled).

Sunday Evening: The "Sunday Night Series" will continue as scheduled beginning at 7PM.

We would like to remind everyone to please remain home if you are sick or think you may have been in contact with someone who is sick. The reason for these adjustments is to slow the spread of the virus so that our health care system can keep up with the demand.

From Archbishop Gregory:

"We are aware of the rapidly developing district and state guidelines regarding the coronavirus. My number one priority as your Archbishop is to ensure the safety and health of all who attend our Masses, the children in our schools, and those we welcome through our outreach and services. Please know that this decision does not come lightly to close our schools or cancel Masses," Archbishop Gregory said.

"We are profoundly saddened that we are not able to celebrate our sacraments as a community for the time being but we know Christ remains with us at all times – specifically in times of worry like this."

"I have made available pastoral and spiritual resources as well as TV Mass on our website that I encourage you to use. I also invite you to join us for Mass and prayer via livestream in our social media." Archbishop Gregory continued. "May the peace of Christ settle any anxieties and fear we may have. Let us continue to pray for the people whose lives have been impacted by the coronavirus as well as those who continue to care for them."

Stay well,

St. Andrew Apostle Staff
on behalf of Father Dan