

Dear St. Michael Parishioners, 3/17/2020

I hope you are well.

Allow me to share some thoughts with you.

We are living in unprecedented times. We cannot minimize the severity of the threat posed by the coronavirus. I believe we have very good leadership in Nebraska in government, medicine, education, business, and the Church.

We need to heed their recommendations. While directions, like the suspensions of public Masses, are very difficult, we must do our part to assist in the mitigation of the spread of this virus. You are well aware of the suggestions for personal hygiene and social distancing.

In an effort to cooperate with public authorities' efforts and so that we can remain connected to you, Frs. Schwenka and Kipper and I will put the following into effect:

1. We priests will celebrate Mass daily privately for you. As difficult as it is to hear this, the Masses are not open to the public.
2. All previously scheduled activities—such as Fr. Schwenka's Scripture study scheduled for March 18, our Nunc Coepi Lent groups, Stations of the Cross, the parish Lenten holy hour scheduled for March 19—are cancelled until further notice.
3. Because of the rapidly changing circumstances of the situation and the uncertainty of the future, the Sacrament of Confirmation scheduled for March 27 has been postponed, as well as First Holy Communion which was scheduled for April 25.
4. We are prayerfully considering options for distributing the Eucharist and hearing confessions. Details will be sent soon.
5. I will record the Stations of the Cross for family prayer and meditation.
6. The day chapel is open and available 24 hours a day.
7. We are considering recording additional programs and meditations, including some directed towards our children. As these develop, we will share them with you.
8. In times when there are concerns about exposure to disease or spreading of a virus, online giving is a convenient option to contribute to support the mission of St. Michael. Because we have online giving already established, your vital offertory support can still happen regardless of where you are. Click here: <https://www.stmichaellincoln.org/donate.html>

A number of you have reached out to me with great, creative ideas. Thank you for your contributions. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me.

Again, we are living in unprecedented times. The Lord will see us through.

With every good wish,

Father Borowiak, pastor

