

St. Robert Bellarmine
1424 First Capitol Drive South
St. Charles, MO 63303

March 17, 2020
Memorial of St. Patrick

Dear Fellow Parishioners:

We received new directives late yesterday from Archbishop Carlson. He has directed us to cease all public celebrations of the liturgy, starting now, through April 5. Based on the Archbishop's letter, we are implementing the following changes here at St. Robert Bellarmine:

- Mass will not be celebrated with the public at St. Robert until Monday, April 6, 2020. During this time, Sunday Mass can be viewed on television on EWTN, at 7:00 am and 11:00 am. Some of our local parishes plan to live-stream their Mass, including St. Joseph Cottleville and Assumption in O'Fallon. Check their web sites for times.
- Our church will be open on Sundays, 9:00 - 11:00 am. During this time, you are welcome to come to our church and pray quietly. If you come, please spread out in the church, maintaining the CDC recommended distance of at least 6 feet between individuals.
- On Sundays, Fr. Mark will be available, 9:00 am - 11:00 am, for those who wish to receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation. Reconciliation will be in the church cry room so the recommended distances can be maintained.
- We are not going to print bulletins during this time. However, we will publish the parish bulletin every week on our web site: www.strbellarmine.com. The bulletin can also be accessed through the myParish App.
- Stations of the Cross are canceled for most of Lent. However, we are still planning to have Stations of the Cross on Good Friday, at 3:00 pm.
- Eucharistic Adoration is canceled for the remainder of Lent. Eucharistic Adoration will resume on the Thursday following Easter (April 16).
- Funeral Masses will be provided, but attendance must be limited. Fr. Mark will coordinate Funeral Masses with the families of the deceased as the need arises.
- Baptisms may be celebrated during this time, but attendance must be limited to no more than 10 people, including the parents and godparents. Deacon Phil will handle all baptism requests.
- Anointing of the Sick will be provided as necessary. Contact the parish office. Requests for Anointing will be handled by Fr. Mark.

- During this time, we are ceasing all events and activities that involve more than 10 people. This includes our Senior Citizen's Lunch and meetings by our various parish organizations. We apologize for the inconvenience this causes. Hopefully, we can resume normal activities in April.
- Because we will not be having Sunday Mass, we will not be taking up collections. However, like your home, our parish still has bills to pay. If you are able, please continue to contribute, either through online giving, or by mailing your contribution to the parish.

This is going to be a difficult time for many of us, especially those who may experience a work stoppage and loss of income. Let's pray that this will be a short event, and we will soon be able to return to normal life. Let's also pray for our brothers and sisters who get the virus and become ill. Hopefully, all of them will survive the virus.

I also ask that you pray for all of our leaders, both in the Church and in our Government. This is a tough time for those who lead us. Let us pray that they receive the wisdom they need to make good decisions for all of us.

Feel free to contact me if you have questions, concerns, suggestions, etc. May God bless you and keep you safe during these coming weeks.

Yours in Christ,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Deacon Phil".

Deacon Phil