

Dear Parishioners of St. Joseph,

Tomorrow I will send you a clarification from Bishop Crosby. It corrects some previous information I shared with you. It states clear: **“The Eucharist is not to be taken to parishioners who are homebound at this time. Similarly, it is not possible to bring the Eucharist to Senior Residences and Nursing Homes.”** I apologize for giving you the wrong information.

My assumption about the Sacrament of Reconciliation was correct: **“Regarding the Sacrament of Reconciliation, no scheduled Confessions are permitted. The Sacrament may be celebrated by appointment provided that social distance can be maintained. The Sacrament of Reconciliation may always be celebrated in danger of death.”** Feel free to phone the parish for the Sacrament of Reconciliation and for any other kind of appointment.

Based on the recommendation of the Bishop, **I am cancelling the celebration of all Baptisms that had been previously scheduled, regardless of the number of people attending.** There will be a much more joyful celebration and a better family atmosphere when we are able to celebrate this beautiful sacrament in Church with all members of our families.

We, the Parish Staff of St. Joseph, will continue to inform you about what is happening in the parish by sending occasional emails like this one. We also hope to be able to include important moments in your life, whether births and milestones, or illnesses and hospitalizations. In these challenging times we are called to share more deeply in one another's lives. Any news to share with the parish family?

This brings me to another point: beginning next week, we will be sharing with our email contacts a daily reflection on the scripture readings. And Mary Forcier, our Youth Minister, will begin sharing (also using our Facebook and Instagram pages) helpful ideas and resources that will keep families connected to the parish and to one another by providing some faith-based activities.

So, we would like to increase our parish contact list. If you have permission to share with us a contact email address of a family member, friend or parishioner, please send it to me by replying to this email or send it to me at brianquigley@gmail.com or to Mary at stannekitcheneryouth@gmail.com

One last idea I would like to float: our elderly and vulnerable parishioners with compromised immune systems who are most affected by this COVID-19 coronavirus. Are we being called as a faith community to reach out especially to them in this crisis situation? Many certainly are feeling confused and uncertain where to turn for help, feeling lonely, maybe even abandoned. Perhaps all they need is a phone call to reassure them that everything is OK. Maybe an offer to pick up their meds or to do a little necessary shopping for them. If you would be interested in joining a group of volunteers and willing to offer an hour a week for this service to them, please send me an email and let me know what you think of this idea and what you could possibly do. I will get back to you quickly and we can begin this ministry. We hold you in thought and prayer, and in our hearts. Stay health, safe and in God's presence.

Fr. Brian