



ST. JOSEPH CATHOLIC CHURCH

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March 17, 2020

Dear St. Joseph Parish Family,

I reach out to you with the warmth of our Lord. This is a Lent to remember!!!, and with the Lord's help, we will get through this!

Amid concerns about COVID-19, I wanted to reassure you that we are keeping a watchful eye on developments and are striving to be as forthcoming with updates as possible. We are guided by the recommendations from the Diocese of Lincoln, Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services, Nebraska Department of Education, Lincoln Public Schools, and the Lancaster County Health Department. Please watch our website and Facebook page for updates.

Our mission is and continues to be to love our neighbors. This may look different for the foreseeable future as we take steps to protect the most vulnerable in our community. To that end, the entire church has been sanitized and will continue to be wiped down as needed. And though public Mass throughout the Diocese of Lincoln has been suspended, the church will be open from 6:00 am to 6:00 pm for those who wish to come pray. I am suggesting that Adoration still continue, though I ask that there not be more than two or three people present there at a time.

Catholics and all people should use this opportunity to devote time for prayer and spiritual renewal. This may include meditating on Sacred Scripture, observing Mass on television or the internet, praying a rosary, or other spiritual practices. A reminder that a Mass for shut-ins is televised every Sunday in the Lincoln area on KLKN-TV at 9:00 a.m. and in the Hastings area on KSNB-TV at 9:30 a.m., and there are a multitude of live-streaming Masses available online.

While public Mass has been suspended for the time being, the financial needs of the Parish and school have not. We still need to pay our teachers and staff (\$200,000 per month) and continue supporting Pius X High School (\$45,000 per month). Therefore, I urge you to mail your contributions to us or consider switching to automatic online giving via our Parish's giving portal at <https://www.osvonlinegiving.com/522>.

There is no doubt we are living in difficult times right now. Through all of it, we need to remember that the Lord is present amongst us. Brighter days will come. While we navigate the ever-changing situation, I ask you to continue praying for one another, your three priests, all health care providers, and the health of everyone.

In Christ,

Fr. Michael G. McCabe
Pastor