



March 26, 2020

Dear Friends,

As it was expected, due to COVID-19, the situation in the United States and in Illinois has changed. Because of these changes, Bishop Malloy wrote a letter to all the faithful of our diocese. You can find this letter on our parish website and on our Facebook page. Bishop Malloy states in his letter, "Through Easter Sunday (up until and including Easter Sunday), all Masses are to continue to be celebrated privately, without the presence of the faithful. I also take this opportunity to extend the dispensation given to all the faithful from the obligation of attending Sunday Mass through Easter Sunday. All adoration chapels are now to be closed in order to increase our response to protect the faithful from the spread of the coronavirus."

You are invited to join our live streaming daily Masses at 8:00 AM and Sunday Masses at 9:00 AM in English and at 10:30 AM in Polish. The Holy Triduum will be live streamed and will be bilingual. The times for the Masses are: Holy Thursday at 7:00 PM, Good Friday at Noon, and the Easter Vigil at 7:00 PM. Easter Sunday Masses will be at 9:00 AM in English and 10:30 AM in Polish. The link to this live streaming can be found on our website, [saintmargaretmary.org](http://saintmargaretmary.org) or on our St. Margaret Mary Facebook page, [www.facebook.com/saintmargaretmary/](https://www.facebook.com/saintmargaretmary/) Please also note there will not be the Easter Basket Blessing on Holy Saturday.

In his letter to the priests, the bishop says, "At the direction of the pastor, parish churches may continue to be open for hours during the day, provided the limit of ten persons and the social distancing is strictly enforced. Otherwise, the church must be closed. Please note those conditions are ultimately the responsibility of the pastor. During this time, the Blessed Sacrament is not to be exposed in the parish church."

We still will keep our church open for personal prayer from 7:00 AM – 8:00 PM until further notice. Due to these restrictions, we at St. Margaret Mary Parish will suspend Saturday confessions because it will not be possible to keep less than ten people in the building with social distancing as we have been asked. We already experienced this problem last Saturday. Because of these limitations, I encourage all of you to make an act of perfect contrition and an act of spiritual communion. Perfect contrition means a sorrow for sin out of love for God. It does not mean being "perfectly sorry." For more information about perfect contrition and an act of spiritual communion, go to Bishop Malloy's letter on our website.

Our Franciscan community keeps you daily in our prayers. We wish you to be healthy and safe. Don't lose hope because with Jesus, there is always hope. Jesus, I trust in You.

Peace and Goodness,

Father Peter Sarnicki, OFM, Conv., Pastor

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