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March 20, 2020

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Things happen so quickly in this crisis situation! I want to keep you all informed as we try to answer the needs and questions you might have.

Most of what I wrote in my previous letter is still true but with these differences which are **BOLDED**:

- **THE BISHOP HAS GIVEN THE DIOCESE A DISPENSATION FROM ABSTAINING FROM MEAT ON FRIDAYS DURING LENT.**
- All public Masses, including Sundays and weekdays, are suspended.
- All gatherings of people in any form are suspended.
- All scheduled Baptisms, First Penance, First Communion, Confirmation and other Sacraments are postponed.
- All Liturgies of Holy Week have been canceled including Palm Sunday, Reconciliation Monday, Holy Thursday, Tenebrae, Good Friday, Good Friday Procession, blessing of the Easter Baskets, the Easter Vigil and Easter Masses.
- On Palm Sunday, blessed Palms will be available at the main door of the Church to bring home. Details will follow.
- **THE CHURCH BUILDING IS NOW CLOSED. NO LONGER OPEN FOR DAILY ADORATION.**
- **FUNERALS AND WAKES ARE NOW NOT ALLOWED.**
- Confession **FOR EMERGENCY SITUATIONS** is available by appointment only.
- Sick calls will be attended to by a Priest following CDC hygiene instructions for the benefit of everyone.
- All intentions for daily and Sunday Masses will be fulfilled by the Priests in their private Masses.
- The Academy (www.iccaastoria.org), the Religious Education Program and Our Lady's Pre-School have suspended classes.

Also to be connected with us:

- Visit our website (www.immacastoria.org), and Facebook (<https://www.facebook.com/immaculateconceptionastoria>) page regularly.
- **LIVE STREAMING OF SUNDAY MASSES WILL BEGIN THIS SUNDAY, MARCH 22. THE ENGLISH MASS WILL BE STREAMED AT 10:30 AM AND THE SPANISH MASS WILL BE STREAMED AT 12 NOON. WE WILL ALSO BE LIVE STREAMING OUR DAILY MASSES:**
 - **ON MONDAYS AND TUESDAYS FR. LIJU WILL BE CELEBRATING THE MASS AT 7:00 AM.**
 - **ON WEDNESDAYS AND THURSDAYS MONSIGNOR WILL CELEBRATE THE MASS AT 9:00 AM.**
 - **ON FRIDAYS AND SATURDAYS FR. BILL WILL CELEBRATE THE 12 NOON MASS.**
 - **THESE LIVE MASSES WILL BEGIN ON MONDAY MARCH 23 AT 7:00 AM.**

- **YOU CAN EITHER WATCH IT AS IT IS HAPPENING IN REAL TIME OR YOU CAN SEE IT LATER THAT DAY.**

- **I WILL BE USING MY VIDEO CHATS ONCE A WEEK TO PROVIDE SPIRITUAL DIRECTION AND GUIDANCE FOR THE PARISH. THEY WILL BE AVAILABLE ON OUR WEBSITE AND FACEBOOK PAGE BEGINNING NEXT WEEK.**

Remembering our Parish expenses, please continue your weekly offerings to support our Parish. We strive to continue our Food Pantry and we need to maintain our basis building expenses. You can send your envelopes and offerings through the mail or bring them to the Rectory Office. If you would like to contribute online, please visit our website for more information.

In all of these changes the Church is trying to keep everyone as safe as possible.

The home now must be a little Church. We encourage prayer by families. If you live alone, please stay connected by praying for the needs of our Church and of the World. Prayer connects us.

So please stay safe and let us grow closer through prayer. I will keep bringing to your attention news as I received it.

God Bless each and every one of you!

Sincerely Yours in Christ,

Msgr. Fernando Ferrarese
Pastor
