



St Catherine of Siena Catholic Church and Student Center Update on COVID-19 (Coronavirus)

March 19, 2020

From: Fr. Protas Okwalo, Teresa Smith, Parish Office, and Annette Roth, Business Manager's Office

To: Our St. Catherine of Siena, Drake, Community

Some of you have called to know how we are and to wish us well. Thank you for the calls. Life at St Catherine of Siena Catholic Church and Student Center is not the same without you. Life here is not the same without you students who have made St. Kate's a home away from home. We miss seeing you come in to say a prayer in the chapel. We miss seeing you reading in the gathering area or library. And yes, we also miss seeing you, Brooke and Trevin and Callie, take a bit of time from your studies to solve puzzles. Life here is not the same without you parishioners who drive miles to come and build a home for students and fellow parishioners at St. Kate's. If social distancing were not a legitimate proposal of the government, CDC and the Diocese of Des Moines, to save us from serious effects of Covid-19, your absence at St. Kate's was going to be intolerable. You do not need to tell us because we know that life is not the same where you are either. But, as believers, we trust that these hard times will pass, and we will return to normalcy.

Now, in addition to social distancing, the following are other recommended actions we have taken to help thwart the spread of Covid-19:

Saturday and Sunday Masses: In line with the directive of the Bishop of our Diocese, we have cancelled weekend masses until further notice.

Individual Prayer and Devotion: The Sanctuary and Chapel will remain open for individual prayer and devotion from 8:00 AM to 4 PM – Monday to Friday and on Saturday and Sunday from 9:00 AM to Noon.

Church Activities: All church programs, including weekday masses, that would gather more than 10 people are cancelled at this time.

Praying with and for you: Teresa, our office manager, has printed out the names of all our registered parishioners that I place them on the altar every time I celebrate mass, and this is daily. I intend to do this until weekend masses resume.

Personal and Parish Finances: Besides disrupting our social lives, Covid-19 has brought and will continue to bring with it very real financial consequences for us, both as persons and as a parish. Income for the parish has already decreased, however, our expenses will mostly remain the same. I would, therefore, like to appeal to those of you who are able, to continue supporting the parish and diocese to the extent that you can.

There are a variety of ways to donate. You could mail in or drop off a check of tithing at the office. Online giving is available on our website, <https://stcatherinedrake.org/> under Donate. Another option is to establish a reoccurring donation via automatic debit to your bank account. Here is the link to the automatic debit form on our website: <https://stcatherinedrake.org/documents/>. Scroll down to the Tithing caption. The form will need to be completed and sent to the parish business office to be set up.

Chrism Mass and Palm Sunday, Sacred Triduum and Easter Sunday

Liturgies: Indications are that these will not be celebrated as usual. We will communicate definitive guidelines from relevant diocesan offices as soon as we receive them.

Below are online Mass and prayer resources for people at home:

English Masses

[CatholicTV](#)

Live Mass from the Basilica of the Sacred Heart at Notre Dame's campus in South Bend, Indiana.

10:00 AM ET every Sunday

9:30 AM ET Monday-Friday

[St. Patrick's Cathedral](#)

Live Mass from St. Patrick's Cathedral in New York. 10:15 AM ET every Sunday

Spanish Masses

[CatholicTV](#)

8:00 AM, 5:30 PM, 10:00 PM ET every Sunday

[San Fernando Cathedral](#)

Live from San Fernando Cathedral in San Antonio, Texas. 8:00 AM, 12:00 PM every Sunday

Prayer Resources

Liturgy of the Hours

Find morning, daytime, evening and night prayers online.

Sunday and daily Mass readings: <http://usccb.org/bible/readings/>

Lenten Scriptural reflections and prayers: sulpicians.org/podcasts/

Pray the Rosary

Sincerely,

Fr Opondo