

Dear St. Jerome Parish Family,

Grace and peace to you during these extraordinary times.

Not only are the times extraordinary due to the public health crisis, but we as faithful Catholics know that this season of Lent is, in itself, an extraordinary time of preparation and penance as we look forward with certain hope to the dawn of the Resurrection.

I share in your grief at the suspension of public Mass and the disruption to our ordinary routines of parish life. At the same time, I urge you to devote yourselves to prayer and daily contemplation of our Lord's perfect sacrifice of much more than the comforts of everyday life. During this temporal period of uncertainty, we know with unshakable certainty that "this too shall pass" and we will once again gather with joy to enjoy fellowship and celebrate the holy Sacraments of the Church.

Until that time, I wish to communicate with you the current plans for our abbreviated parish life.

First, by the directive of Archbishop ListECKI, all public celebrations of the Mass are temporarily suspended. Mass will, however, be celebrated daily at St. Jerome's without a congregation. Please join us for daily Mass via our YouTube channel: St. Jerome's Oconomowoc. You can tune in live or watch the recording at your convenience. Weekend Mass will consist of a private (non-congregational) celebration at 4:30 on Saturdays. Once again, you can tune in via YouTube.

Our celebration of the Easter triduum of Holy Thursday, Good Friday, and the Easter vigil Mass on Saturday, April 11, will also be private and streamed via YouTube.

Second, Confession will remain available on Saturdays from 2:30 to 3:30. As we must avoid congregating, we ask you to maintain social distancing of six feet while waiting.

Third, 24-hour Eucharistic Adoration remains available in the main church. We must maintain a strict maximum of 10 adorers at any one time. Please also observe

the social distancing recommendation of six feet, with the one exception being those who live in the same household. In addition, we are exploring the possibility of "virtual Adoration" via YouTube.

Fourth, in the event an Anointing is needed, please call the parish office. This critically important sacrament remains available without restriction.

Finally, weddings, funerals, and baptisms can be held with certain restrictions. Please call the parish office for more information.

I ask you to keep the parish family of St. Jerome in your daily prayers. Please also pray for our larger community, state, and nation to successfully navigate this unprecedented public health crisis. While our Lent may feel somewhat prolonged this year, we must remind ourselves and each other that Easter is indeed on the horizon.

As St. Paul assures us, "In all these things we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord."

Fr. Tom