



March 16, 2020

To our St. Francis of Assisi community,

We know this may be a confusing and frustrating time. Like you, we are concerned over the health and safety of our families and neighbors. We want to update you on the steps we are taking here at St. Francis of Assisi.

First and foremost, our Parish Office remains open at the time.

Per guidelines set forth by the Diocese of Des Moines and our education, health, and emergency management partners, the St. Francis campus has implemented the following precautions and protocols:

- Saturday/Sunday Masses are canceled until further notice. (Online tithing is available at <https://abundant.co/stfrancisofassisi/give> or you can drop your tithing in the mailbox in the Gathering Space.)
- The sanctuary will remain open 6 a.m. – 7:30 p.m. Monday – Fridays and on Sundays from 7 a.m. – Noon for individual prayer and devotion.
- Per the Catholic Schools Office, we will be moving to an online learning format for our St. Francis of Assisi School students from March 23 – April 14.
- Per the Catholic Schools Office, Kids Care, athletics, and other co-curricular school activities will be closed, beginning tonight at 5:30 p.m. through April 14th.
- All church programs and activities which would gather more than 50 are canceled at this time. We are working to develop a plan on how we might be able to supplement educational resources for all of our educational and formation programs.
- Confession will be available by appointment only.
- The remaining Lenten fish fries have been canceled.

As we receive more information that could impact any of our operations, we will share it as expeditiously as possible.

Please continue to watch our website and social media channels for updates and resources. We are quickly preparing to offer a worship resource (electronically and hard-copy) for anyone who cannot attend Mass or for times when Mass cannot be celebrated, and we are hoping to begin a Facebook Live stream of Mass very shortly.

While this is a confusing and frustrating time, please know the steps we are implementing are being done out of an abundance of caution – not fear. Our faith is at the heart of what we are doing and we will continue to serve you during this unprecedented time. Please keep everyone in your prayers.

Thank you for your continued support.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Fr. Ray McHenry
St. Francis of Assisi Pastor

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