

Dear Parishioners,

Based on guidance from our trustees, our lay leadership, the staff and the most current medical evidence we have about the coronavirus, we have decided that it would be most prudent to suspend our weekend Masses for the foreseeable future along with Saturday afternoon confessions. I know this will come as a hardship for so many of you who love this parish and we don't make this decision lightly. However, we want to do our part to help end the pandemic as quickly as possible. I would like to say a few words about the implications of this decision:

a) To our faithful Mass-goers and specifically to our seniors: As Catholics, our first responsibility must be to the common good – to NOT transmit the virus. At this time, the better way of being faithful to the gospel may be by *not* attending community Mass so that we do not put others in danger. Remember that Archbishop Hebda has dispensed the Sunday Obligation for the time being. Parish leadership is reassessing the situation daily and will adjust parish practices as the situation demands. Please watch this website or call the Parish Office for the most current information.

b) Currently the Office will continue to remain open but the physical facility will be locked. That is to say: ministry will continue to happen, albeit in a different way:

- Below you will find some options to stay involved and a way to worship on the weekends. We will offer a pre-recorded Mass for the current Sunday on this website for you to follow along and pray each Sunday. We will also post other prayer activities and reflections that you can use to strengthen your spiritual journey throughout the Lenten season.
- The formation of our children, both public school and at Highland Catholic, will continue, but now via online learning. It is our hope that during this time of relative isolation you might come together as a family to discover more deeply the life of faith and prayer. This imposed isolation offers us a golden opportunity to deepen our communion with one another.
- To that end, if you or someone you know is ill, feeling lonely or isolated, I encourage you to call or email the Parish Office and specifically Eric or Ryan as we try to coordinate a volunteer parish response, facilitating an expanded ministry of outreach during these trying times. Know that you all are in our prayers and we have faith that this too shall pass.
- And finally, please do not forget about your financial stewardship of the parish. Our hope is that once we are able to continue with regular ministries, we will still be operational, but bills need to be paid during this time of uncertainty. We

absolutely depend on your ongoing support. You can either mail in your weekly envelope or make a regular donation on our website www.lumenchristicc.org.

When life is hard we are primed to learn something absolutely central about ourselves and the God who made us. Lent reminds us that our wounds are God's hiding place and they hold our greatest gift: faith, not fear. Thank you for your understanding and patience as we journey through this "Lenten" time of our life together.

Father Paul
Pastor

Ryan Rehkamp
Parish Director