

AN IMPORTANT MESSAGE TO THE PEOPLE OF ST. MICHAEL'S CHURCH

March 18, 2020

“Living in the midst of the Coronavirus here in the Parish and Diocese”

Dear Parishioners,

On Monday Morning, March 16, 2020 the Diocese of Albany informed us that:

**ALL MASSES IN THE DIOCESE OF ALBANY CANCELED UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE,
FAITHFUL URGED TO TAKE TIME TO PRAY AT HOME**

Due to growing concerns and medical advice related to the rapid spread of COVID-19 in social settings, Bishop Edward B. Scharfenberger has announced that: all regularly scheduled public Masses in the Roman Catholic Diocese of Albany — except weddings and funerals — will be canceled until further notice. Churches will, however, remain open for private prayer, pending further regulations.

In addition, all Confirmations have been canceled until further notice and will be rescheduled. Funerals and weddings may be attended only by close family and in accordance with social distancing and capacity requirements. Further restrictions may force a change in those guidelines as we go forward.

“Although we know how difficult it is for Catholics to be without the Mass and without the Eucharist, we must do our part to help ‘flatten the curve’ and stop the spread of COVID-19 in order to protect the most vulnerable among us,” Bishop Scharfenberger said when making the announcement. “I encourage the faithful to pray and fast as we continue our journey through this season of Lent. Try to include at least 15 minutes of daily intentional prayer, with family where possible and safe. Use the Bible, say the Rosary, watch Mass on TV, and please remember to pray for those who are suffering from the Coronavirus worldwide and for all those in the medical community who are on the front lines.”

The Diocese of Albany is keeping Catholics apprised of changes, updates and resources on its dedicated web page: rcda.org/coronavirus. In addition, a Faith at Home page includes links to livestreamed Mass, daily Scripture readings, saints of the day, and suggestions for creating a sacred space at home: rcda.org/coronavirus/resources.

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- Some Answers to Some Questions You May Have -

+ Will I be able to go to Mass on Saturday Night or Sunday Morning?

No, all Public Masses (Weekend and Weekday Masses) will not take place in the Parish or the Diocese, until further notice. However, some churches in the diocese will continue to “live-stream” mass on Sunday morning. One local church that will be “live-streaming” the mass at 10:30AM on Sunday is St. Mary’s, Crescent with Fr. Cebula.

+ Will I be able to “Watch” the Mass on T.V. or my Computer or Smartphone?

Yes, St. Mary’s Church, Crescent we have and will continue to “Live Stream” the 10:30 AM Sunday Mass.

+ How can I watch the Live Streamed Sunday Mass from St. Mary’s, Crescent?

Here is how to watch the 10:30 am Mass “Live” on Sunday Mornings:

- 1. Go to our Parish Website: www.stmaryscrescent.org from your computer, tablet or smartphone. Scroll to the center of the page and you will see a box that says: “St Mary’s on You Tube”.**
- 2. If it is Sunday morning between 10:30 am and 11:30 am and you ‘want’ to watch Mass ‘live in real time’, click on the Watch Mass Live “button”. If at any other time you want to watch an archived Mass, click on the Watch Archived Masses “button”.**

+ Does Watching Mass via “Live Streaming” or “Archived Mass” fulfill my Sunday Obligation?

Yes, since this is an Emergency Situation “Watching Mass” via Live Streaming does fulfill your Obligation to Attend Mass.

+ Can I attend Mass at the Church, if the Mass is being “Live Streamed”?

No, you may not attend. The Church will not be open. “Live Streamed” Masses are being offered to provide this essential part of being Catholic to everyone, until such time that Public Mass resumes, hopefully in the near future.

+ Will First Communion and Confirmation Preparation continue; will First Communion and Confirmation Masses take place as scheduled?

At the present time – All Classes, Meetings, etc...are cancelled or postponed, till further notice.

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- Some Answers to Some Questions You May Have -

+ Will we be able to Attend Holy Week and Easter Services/Masses?

At this time, we are unable to answer this question. We hope so, but as noted already: All regularly scheduled public Masses in the Roman Catholic Diocese of Albany — except weddings and funerals — will be canceled until further notice.

+ Will Holy Week & Easter Services/Masses be “Live Streamed”?

**IF Masses continue to be suspended, (due to the coronavirus) during Holy Week & Easter: YES, St. Mary’s, Crescent will Live Stream these Services/Masses
*as follows:***

- **Palm Sunday, April 5, 2020 at 10:30 am – “Live Stream of Mass”**
- **Holy Thursday, April 9, 2020 at 5:00 pm – “Live Stream of Mass”**
- **Good Friday, April 10, 2020 at 5:00 pm – “Live Stream of Service”**
- **Easter Sunday, April 12, 2020 at 10:30 am – “Live Stream of Mass”**

We Hope You and Your Family will be Watching & Praying!

+ How can I continue to Financially Support the Parish?

Thanks for asking. As you know personally, our Bills at Home and in the Parish will continue to come in and others will expect to be paid. As we know it is with the Financial Support of all the Parish that we have and are able to continue to meet our many financial obligations and responsibility to continue to serve the People of our St. Michael’s Parish – Spiritually, Educationally, Sacramentally, and in so many areas of Life and Parish Life.

Ways to Continue to Support Your Parish Now and in the Future:

- **Please send in/mail to the Parish your Donation, your Weekly Envelopes.**
- **Please consider using: “E-Giving”, to do so by:**

Visiting our Parish Website and click on “E-Giving”

(Parish Website is: <http://stmichaelsofcohes.org/>)

- Some Answers to Some Questions You May Have -

- + **How can I know what is the latest information on Masses beginning again; on updated First Communion or Confirmation Dates; on Getting Parish Business done; on any number of areas of Parish Life, etc...**

It is recommended that you “Call Ahead” and speak with the appropriate person in the Parish (518-237-5151). We also recommend that you do this in other areas of life, during these most interesting times.

Also, at this time, we would hope to have the Daily Mass Chapel Open (for a brief visit/prayer) - *and* – The Parish Offices Open:

Monday thru Thursday --- 8:30 am to 12:30 pm

- + **Will the Parish Continue to Keep the People of the Parish Updated?**

Yes. We will make every effort to Keep the Parish updated by way of our: Parish Website; Parish Bulletin (which will be posted on our Website under “Bulletins”);

- + **People are concerned, anxious, even a bit fearful at the moment – what can we do?** A few suggestions that have been shared with us are:

Be Calm.

Pray, Pray with your Family

Watch a Movie with your Family.

Play a game together.

Enjoy your time together as a Family over meals together; while watching Mass together on Sunday. And I am sure you can add to this list.

May God Bless You and Your Family!

Deacon Andy Grebe, Interim Administrator

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Parish Website:

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