

Dear Ascension Parishioners,

Due to the increasing number of confirmed cases of COVID-19/coronavirus in Minnesota, Archbishop Bernard Hebda this week announced his decision to dispense all Catholics in the Archdiocese of Saint Paul and Minneapolis from their obligation to attend Sunday Mass, until further notice. This is a rare dispensation and a decision he said he did not take lightly. A copy of the Archbishop's letter is available on our website.

Despite the Sunday Mass dispensation, Masses will continue to be celebrated in the Archdiocese. We will continue to celebrate weekend and weekday Masses at Ascension unless and until different guidance is offered by Archdiocesan and public officials. Beginning March 21, if our Mass size exceeds 250 people, we will livestream Mass in the Lower Level of the church. We ask that, for the sake and safety of others, Communion be received only in the hand to reduce any potential spread of the virus.

In his letter, Archbishop Hebda provides some simple ways to stay spiritually connected to the Church and each other, like participating in a special fast this Wednesday, March 18, and other important ways to increase our spiritual devotion during Lent.

As always, we remain here to support your spiritual journey and will continue to deliver the latest updates during this challenging time. Here's how you can stay involved.

- Monitor our parish website – www.ascensionmpls.org – and our [Facebook page](#) - @AscensionChurchMN – for updates.
- Watch for emails with the latest information. If you are not currently receiving emails from us, sign up [here](#) (at the bottom of the page) or contact the parish office to share your email address.
- Each Monday, Father Dale's homily will be on our website and Facebook as both a podcast and video. The video will include the proclamation of Sunday's gospel and the homily.
- In these challenging times, we'll include other appropriate resources for prayer and reflection on our website.
- The overall financial wellbeing of the parish is so important at this time. Please continue to offer your stewardship gifts either through electronic giving, at weekend Masses, or through the mail. To make an electronic gift, please go to www.ascensionmpls.org/give. You can also give by text; instructions are on that web page.

Our parish staff and leadership have worked to determine the course of our large group gatherings other than weekend Masses. We have postponed or cancelled all gatherings. As we go forward, we will prayerfully consider the latest information from local health experts and make prudent decisions about future gatherings on our calendar, and will communicate those decisions to you.

We thank you for your support and faithfulness to Ascension. We will hold all of you closely in prayer during these difficult days, and ask that you pray for us as well. We are confident that together, with God's help and guidance, we will make it through this time of fear and uncertainty.

Sincerely yours in Christ,



Father Dale Korogi, Pastor



Patty Stroman, Administrator