March 13, 2020

St. Mary Magdalen Parish,

Let us pray together for an end to this virus and hysteria! Lord God, healer of the body and soul, hear us in our time of need. You brought sight to the blind, hearing to the deaf, healing to the leper, and cast out demons. We ask that you bring us this same healing necessary to overcome this coronavirus pandemic. We pray for those affected by the virus and those who care for them, and for those who have died. We pray that the needs of all will be met by the sharing of necessary resources, and that calm will be in the hearts and minds of all of our brothers and sisters throughout the world.

We are constantly receiving updates from the Archdiocese with directives on how to proceed with our daily parish schedules in light of the COVID-19 (novel coronavirus). As of today, we have received a message from the Archbishop saying, "The celebration of the Eucharist is the source and summit of our Catholic faith. But it is important to remember that our obligation to participate in the Mass is dispensed for grave causes. Therefore, in this grave and extraordinary moment, I am dispensing all the Catholic faithful of the Archdiocese from the obligation of attending Sunday Mass for the weekends of March 14-15, March 21-22, and March 28-29."

In light of this announcement, I have decided to cancel any non-essential parish meetings, gatherings and liturgies through the end of March. This means after today, March 13, ALL Parish activities, meetings, devotions and events are hereby canceled. Our regularly scheduled weekend and daily Masses and Confessions (No face to face Confessions allowed) will continue as planned. We encourage the sick, elderly and immune compromised to stay at home and view the Mass by means of television or the internet. I ask that you disseminate this information to all involved in your ministries, devotions, and groups.

All of the following will be cancelled and or closed after tonight and until March 31st:

Liturgy and Sacraments:
-Communion to the Sick and Homebound (Elderly and Sick are most vulnerable)
-Stations of the Cross (Friday 5:15pm Mass will be moved back to the Chapel)
Ministries, Activities, and Devotions:
- Parish School
- Religious Education (All Cultural Communities)
- Lenten Soup Nights
- All Parish Devotions
- University Series
- Many Meals
- Bible Study
- All Leadership Groups
- All Choirs
- All Prayer Groups
- There will be no Vendors, Sales, or Groups soliciting after Mass

Parish Offices and Ministry Center:
- Please do not come to the office unless it is absolutely necessary.

May God bless you and keep you,

[Signature]

Fr. Preston