

SAINT PETER CATHOLIC CHURCH

320 COLLEGE BLVD.,
GRENADA, MS 38901.

DIRECTIVES OF OUR PARISH REGARDING COVID-19

Dear brothers and sisters, Happy Feast of Saint Joseph, patron of the universal church!

As per the information given to us by Mary Woodward, the Chancellor of our Diocese, on Mar 17, 2020, 4:29 PM, our Bishop Most Reverend Joseph R. Kopacz has issued a [statement](#) on Corona virus. As the community of Saint Peter Catholic Church, Granada, MS, we willingly accept the content of the [statement](#) for the betterment of the society. In conjunction with that [statement](#), our parish council has suggested the following directives for our community. As the pastor of this parish, I request all our parishioners take these directives in a positive way and respect the guidance given to our diocese by health experts, the Center of Disease Control and the Mississippi Department of Health and in light of the announcement from President Trump and Governor Reeves. Until further notice, all these come into effect immediately:

- The celebration of public Masses – weekdays and Sundays – is suspended.
- Large gatherings on the parish campus are not permitted.
- Faith Formation classes, CCD, RCIA, Stations, Lay Apostolate Ministry, and Benediction are suspended.
- “Mothers of the Church” program continues. Contact Annette Tipton.
- Lenten Meal & Stations of Cross on Fridays are cancelled.
- Healing Masses for April and May are cancelled. Brunch following Healing Mass on first Fridays of month – sponsored by Knights of Columbus – is cancelled.
- Lenten Penance service scheduled for April 1st is cancelled. Fish Friday event scheduled for April 3rd is cancelled. The celebration of Seder Supper on April 8th is cancelled.
- For the foreseeable future, funerals can be simple graveside services with a small gathering and a memorial Mass may be celebrated at a later date.
- There are no wedding celebrations in our church.
- The Sacrament of Reconciliation is by appointment only.
- Churches are not to be open for parishioners to pray [*March 19, 2020 by Father Lincoln, V.G.*].
- Cleaning of the church and the buildings will be maintained regularly.
- Our parish office is closed temporarily. The identity of our catholic community as a parish is to be kept up. We need to maintain our church as a parish. So, kindly continue to offer your financial support either by mailing or through online giving. Checks may be mailed to St. Peter Catholic Church, 320 College Blvd., Grenada, MS 38901.

- Parents are requested to impart the faith to their children. Hence we continue our “Home Study of Catechism” this year too. Kindly contact Barbara Liberto @ 662 417 2467. Online Faith Formation Classes for grades 1 – 8 are available. Annette Tipton has volunteered to guide the parents. Kindly contact her @ 985 518 5674.
- It is our brotherly concern to support people who are home-bound. If you are willing to help or know someone in need, kindly contact Irene Stark @ 662 417 0968.

Even though we do not meet as a community, still we are one family of Saint Peter Catholic Church. Let us support each other and pray for one another. Let us continue our relation through other media channels like, Messenger, Face book, etc..

Prayer is an important way Catholics respond to any crisis as we express our dependence on God for all salvation, temporal and eternal. I ask that we continue the recitation of the Rosary in our families daily. The Rosary is a powerful weapon in our life. Try to add the intentions to those impacted by disease including people who are infected, their families, health workers and government workers striving to slow its spread.

We are in the sacred season of Lent. As a Church Community we have an obligation to protect the common good and reduce and slow down the spread of Corona virus in order to keep from possible exposure of those vulnerable and from overwhelming our healthcare system. We all are called to make sacrifices that will benefit others. Sacrifice is a part of our Lenten journey and if one feels inconvenienced or wronged, offer it up for the poor souls in Purgatory and reflect more deeply on the suffering of our Lord Jesus on the Cross.

Even though our participation in the liturgy is suspended, Jesus likes to continue his dialogue with us. Hence, try to read the Word of God and reflect upon daily readings. EWTN telecasts many live programs of such kind. Also, if you have access to browse the internet, you can go through many websites that provide reflections of daily Gospel readings.

For any pastoral & sacramental emergency assistance kindly contact me @ 601 493 5103 and for other clarifications contact Krystal Hogan @ 251 362 1091. Recorded message is not recommended.

God bless
Arokia S Savio.
Pastor.
March 19th 2020.

- More resources of the diocesan directives about the Corona Virus are available on our Diocesan Website: www.jacksondiocese.org