

Faith Members,

The coronavirus (COVID-19) situation continues to change. The state of Indiana is currently advising that groups of no more than 50 people should meet together, and that could change further, given that the federal Center for Disease Control (CDC) and the President have advised that, in some areas, that number should be lowered to 10. If that should happen in our community, it would alter further how we continue to administer and receive God's gifts.

To enable us to submit to the guidelines of our leaders, while also still making available the saving gifts of our God, we here at Faith are adopting the following practice ...

First, the remainder of our midweek Lenten services will be cancelled.

Second, we will celebrate the Divine Service in groups of no more than ten people, using the format of the Divine Service that I use with our homebound members. This is a shorter version of the Divine Service, and with the addition of a couple of hymns it should take no more than 30 minutes to complete.

To start with, there will be three service times on Sunday mornings: 9:00 / 10:00 / 11:00. Members will need to contact me via phone or e-mail to reserve a spot for one of these services. If you use e-mail, I will respond to your request to confirm your spot. Please make sure you get a response from me before you come to church, to ensure that we do not have more than ten people at any one time. If these services become full and still others wish to attend the Divine Service, we will schedule additional service times, on Sunday and/or through the week. *Note: our members who are at high medical risk can attend these services, as they are under the CDC's guideline of 10 people.*

Third, I will continue to be available to visit members who either cannot, or do not feel comfortable attending one of these services, in order to bring them the Sacrament. Simply e-mail (pastorwdo@faithgreenfield.org) or phone me (317-498-9421) and I'll be there.

Fourth, to enable our congregation to retain a corporate prayer life, we will also make available on our congregation's website (www.faithgreenfield.org) the weekly Our Congregation In Prayer devotion sheets, which we recently began handing out after worship on Sundays. The purpose of that resource is to enable us to remain "together" in our prayers, even when we're not. That would seem more important now than ever.

Fifth, sermons will be e-mailed to all members (they are also available on our website). We will also seek to identify members who do not have e-mail, so that we can mail the sermons, devotion sheets, and other pertinent information, to them.

Sixth, for the time being, Sunday school and Sunday Bible class, as well as the Saturday morning men's Bible class, will be cancelled. Bible class and worship services for Wednesdays have already been cancelled.

All believers in Jesus need to receive the Sacrament of His Body & Blood, for the forgiveness of their sins and the strengthening of their faith. These alterations to our schedule are an effort to

make those gifts available to everybody, even our members with high risk medical conditions, while also submitting to the authority of our leaders as they advise us on how to protect ourselves from exposure to the virus.

If you have any concerns, or ideas about other things we can be doing, please don't hesitate to contact me or another leader of the congregation.

Finally, as I did before, so too now I leave you with a Word of Scripture:

Fear not, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name; you are Mine. When you pass through the waters I will be with you; and when you pass through the rivers, they will not sweep over you; when you walk through the fire, you will not be burned; the flames will not set you ablaze. For I am the LORD, your God, the Holy One of Israel, your Savior. (Isaiah 43:1-3)

In Christ,

Pastor O'Connor