

# March 13, 2020

## Attention Parishioners,

The following notice is being sent to all parishes, schools, diocesan facilities and media outlets:

Effective immediately, and until further notice, Bishop Joseph C. Bambera, in union with the Bishops of Pennsylvania, has dispensed the faithful of the Diocese of Scranton from the obligation to attend Sunday Mass. Despite the suspension of the obligation to attend Sunday Mass, all regularly scheduled Masses will remain open to the public for those who wish to attend, and Stations of the Cross and all other prayer services already scheduled will remain as scheduled.

Also, during a news conference Thursday afternoon (3/12/20), Governor Wolf encouraged religious leaders statewide to exercise discretion in order to mitigate the spread of the coronavirus and encouraged the suspension of large gatherings and events of 250 individuals or more. In the Diocese of Scranton, it is now strongly recommended that all non-essential parish and Diocesan events be temporarily cancelled or postponed.

Therefore, Faith Formation Classes are postponed until further notice.

- ◆ In addition to these directives, the following will still be observed.
- ◆ The distribution of the Precious Blood via the Chalice is temporarily suspended
- ◆ The Sign of Peace will now be exchanged without physical contact
- ◆ Please respect the request to receive Communion in your hand.
- ◆ There will be no Holy Water in the Communal Holy Water Fonts.

We are reminding all parishioners, from Senior Citizens to children, if you have a chronic illness or a compromised immune system, please stay home. This is the directive Bishop Bambera, Father Beck, and the CDC.

If you are sick or suspect you are sick with a contagious illness, no matter of your age, you are morally bound to remain at home to get well and stop the spread of any contagions. This is for the good of the whole!

Your careful adherence to these important matters is appreciated. Let us continue to pray for each other.

Faithfully yours in Christ,  
Bishop Joseph Bambera  
And  
Father Richard Beck