

Saint Joseph Parish / Parroquia San José

- 907 South 6th Street • Sunnyside, Washington 98944 •
- Phone: (509) 837-2243 • Fax: 1 (844) 571-3825 •

Friday, March 13, 2020

My Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Thanks to all you who offered prayers and good wishes for my recovery from surgery. I have felt fine and been quite active since the day after. I did not return to the office until today to make sure I was in strong and full recovery. That had the advantage of dedicating lots of time during these 10 days to follow the growing understanding of the coronavirus: Corvid-19. I made some preliminary decisions during this time, but waited to see if something different would come from the Diocese before this weekend.

Masses Cancelled Until Further Notice

Bishop Joseph Tyson, in response to Governor Jay Inslee's announcement of an executive order expanding statewide the prohibition of public gatherings larger than 250 people, due to the coronavirus pandemic, has granted a dispensation from the obligation to attend Sunday Mass for all parishioners of the Diocese of Yakima, and all travelers within the boundaries of the Diocese on Sundays, for an indefinite time.

Along with this dispensation, he has suspended indefinitely the public celebration of all Masses in the Diocese of Yakima.

While many parishes may never have Masses larger than 250 people, local health districts have recommended even stricter restrictions; for example, the Yakima County Health District has set the number at no more than 100 people.

Eucharist for the Sick and Dying

I will celebrate a private Mass (myself only present) regularly to assure there are adequate hosts in the usual places.

Confessions / Reconciliation

These continue at their regular time 2:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m. Saturdays. They will be in the Blessed Sacrament Chapel in the Church. All Confessions will be face to face and there were be 7 feet between the priest and the person confessing.

Our Penance Service for Friday, March 20 is cancelled.

Children's and Youth First Reconciliation / Confession

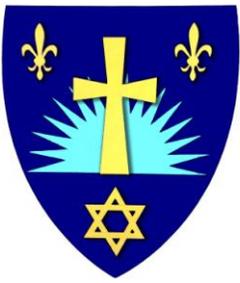
These confessions that were scheduled next week have been postponed; until I don't know when;

Those Receiving Sacraments at the Easter Vigil

You will receive your Sacraments, but I do not know when.

•E-mail: sjpssecretary@gmail.com •

• Web: www.saintjosephsunnyside.org & www.sanjosesunnyside.org •



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Weddings, Quinceañeras, Funerals

These will be dealt with on a case by case basis.

We will try to contact those involved about these in the coming week, but if you do not hear from us by Wednesday at 5:00 pm, call us. We should be open until 7:00 pm

Religious Formation / Education Classes Are Cancelled

All Religious Formation / Education Classes Are Cancelled : 1st -12th grade and Adults are cancelled until further notice.

The Diocese is working to making online catechetical resources available to all parishioners in English and Spanish within the next two to three weeks.

Our (St Joseph's) Saint Patrick's Dinner, Auction, Dessert Extravaganza, and Dance

has been postponed. More details to come. The event had been scheduled for tomorrow evening, Saturday, March 14, 2020.

This has been a difficult decision for all involved in planning and energizing the event, as well as for those who love participating in it each year. Although we always do our best to express our gratitude to the central group who created and grew the event over these years, we now owe them a special *Thank You* in this difficult chapter.

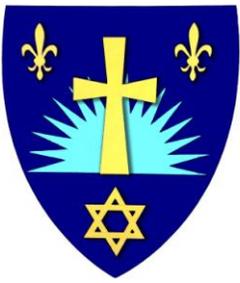
The Lights Are On For You

Many turn more strongly toward God in times of crises. We want to respond as best we can. Even without Masses, "The lights of our church are on for you." You are welcome to come to the church individually or as a family at any time.

The Church will be open Sundays through Saturdays 9:00 am -1:00 pm and 5:00 pm– 8:00 pm. If you have the door code, it is open longer. **DO NOT GIVE THE CODE OUT TO PEOPLE YOU DO NOT KNOW. WE WILL CHANGE THE CODE SOON.**

The Chapel is open 7:00 am – 10:00 pm. If you need a card for the keypad in order enter, come to the office during regular office hours, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday 2:00 pm-7:00 pm.

Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament is in the Chapel.



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Donations

Finances are a huge concern for families, businesses, and our Parish at this time. Most of our income is from the Sunday collection. I offer three ways to donate to our Parish during these times **if you can.**

1. Bring your donation to the office
2. Instead of entering the office/classroom building, look 6 windows to the right of the main entrance to the building. There is a red box with a sign “Dropbox Buzón”. Place your donation in there.
3. When you come out of the church entrance by the parking lot, you are looking at the door of the Priest’s house. In a few days we will have a mailbox put in the door. Until then you can slide an envelope under the door.
4. Go to our Parish Website and click on **Online Giving**.

A Unique Lenten Sacrifice

All Catholics in the Diocese, in a sign of our spiritual communion, are asked to accept this decision in the spirit of this Lenten season of sacrifice. Let us focus some of our prayer on those who are suffering from the worst cases of the virus and let us pray for the families and businesses in turbulence because of it. In times of crises, scarcities, and uncertainties, let us ask ourselves how we can be Christlike (aka Christian.) to one another in this world.

Father Thomas Joseph Bunnell, SJ
Pastor