

**In accordance with new directives issued by Bishop Serratelli,
until further notice:**

**ALL PUBLICLY SCHEDULED LITURGIES AND DEVOTIONS AT OUR LADY OF
FATIMA CHAPEL ARE SUSPENDED.**

In particular this applies to:

-All Public Masses

-Friday Stations of the Cross

-All Public Confession Times (Lenten Monday evenings, Saturday afternoons)

Dear Faithful of Our Lady of Fatima Chapel,

This day is of course very saddening for us all, not least of all for your priests. We will all miss the beauty of so many of the Liturgies during this time. As the Bishop mentions in his letter, he issues these directives knowing that they are a trial for us, but are for the common good. I encourage you all to join your priests in doing your best to take all reasonable precautions to prevent the spread of this virus, especially to the more vulnerable among us, and receive these guidelines in a spirit of obedience and selfless charity.

Please be assured that your priests will be praying for you and your families with renewed vigor during this time. In particular, I found the Bishop's words about the private masses of priests in the diocese during this time beautifully express the long tradition of Holy Mother Church from similar times in her history. *"Since the Eucharist is the source and summit of the Christian life, all priests of the Diocese of Paterson must celebrate Mass privately for the good of all of the Christian faithful entrusted to their care and for all people during this critical time."* Be assured that your intentions will be taken to the altar daily in our private masses. In particular, mass will continued to be offered for the intentions in the Chapel's mass book.

The unrestricted times of travel for NJ are 5am-8pm. We are planning to have the **Church open from 6AM-8pm each day**, during which time we encourage you to stop in for private prayers and visits to the Blessed Sacrament, and especially spiritual communions.

As Bishop Serratelli encourages in his post, we will be having daily **Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament**. Tomorrow, Tuesday, March 17, there will be Adoration from 6:30AM-9AM. As time goes on, we will be setting up and posting more regular times. Please check back as I will be discussing with the other priests what more we can do as we move forward.

As I mentioned in my sermon on Sunday, from all eternity, Our Blessed Lord knew that this would be our 'Lent 2020'! While being scourged and crowned with thorns, while carrying His Cross and being crucified, while offering His last breath to His Heavenly Father and spilling the

last drop of His Precious Blood, Our Lord knew what graces we would need for today and every single day of our lives.

This is likely not the cross we were hoping to carry this Lent, rather it is the cross that He has picked for us! And how we receive it, might make all the difference to what work He can do in us as we prepare for Easter.

So let us continue to pray for each other. I leave you with the encouragement of Bishop Serratelli with which he ended his post today:

“We pray for the healing gifts of the Holy Spirit to descend upon all people during this critical period. In this time of trial, we depend on the mercy and goodness of God to protect us.

“Therefore, I urge all to join in fervent prayer, especially by praying the rosary. Through the intercession of our Blessed Mother, may the Lord, in his mercy, deliver us from this present danger.”

God bless you all,

Fr McNeely