



Saint John Paul II Catholic Parish

Holy Rosary Church · Christ the King Church · St. Ann Mission · St. Anthony Mission
145 E. 9th Street · Idaho Falls, ID 83404 · (208) 522-4366 · jpii@cableone.net

Parish Update: April 18, 2020



This Update was delayed on account of new information coming forward from the Bishop and Governor's office that affects our parish. I postponed this Update until such time as I could gather with the JPII Parish Life & Wellness Committee to discuss it. Thanks for your patience.

- 1. Happy Easter!** We hope that you received the Happy Easter card from the parish and that your Easter celebrations were joy filled and faith filled celebrations. Thankfully the Christ event cannot be contained to a building, and this year was celebrated in the intimacy and familiarity of your homes. He is Risen and as disciples we are called to live and express this reality, whenever and however we can. HAPPY EASTER.
- 2. Confessions and Opening the Churches:** At the end of the week there were a flurry of letters from the Bishop's office regarding opening the churches and providing for confession. I met with the Parish Life & Wellness Committee to discuss his letter and how we should respond. After much excellent dialogue I've decided the following:
 - **Confessions:** Confessions on an emergency, cases by case basis will be available to people by calling the parish office and making an appointment. Because the parish office remains closed, you will have to wait until one of the priests returns your call to make an appointment. Confessions will take place in the side vestibule of Holy Rosary Church, behind a plexiglass screen and have to be sanitized after each confession. People coming to confession will have to wear a protective mask and use hand sanitizer. Penitents are respectfully asked to be brief in their confession. These measures will help prevent contamination of the penitent as well as our priests. We will begin this new service next week, or as soon as the proper protection screen can be made and put in place. Thank you for your patience.
 - **Opening the Churches:** out of an abundance of care for our people's health and respect of the Governor's stay-at-home order that effect it has had in flattening the infection curve , the churches in Idaho Falls will remain closed, until such time that we can ensure for people's safety and put in place precautionary measures to prevent contamination. We are working on ways that we open God's house for people to come and pray, but in my opinion now is not that time because I think it could be unsafe. A few more weeks can make all the difference in the world. At the first opportunity to open our churches in a safe manner I will let you know.
- 3. First Communion and Confirmation:** The dates for Confirmation and First Communion, as well as for those in the RCIA, depend on if the Governor lifts the stay-at-home order and/or what restrictions may apply to Church gatherings. At this time we simply don't know what that will look like; but we should know more on April 30. Given the uncertainty of how religious congregations like churches will be able to gather, we are making plans to do the Easter Sacraments, Youth Confirmation and First Communion when school reopens, probably in August or September. Of course once new information or



Saint John Paul II Catholic Parish

Holy Rosary Church · Christ the King Church · St. Ann Mission · St. Anthony Mission
145 E. 9th Street · Idaho Falls, ID 83404 · (208) 522-4366 · jpii@cableone.net

restrictions on gatherings become clearer, we will adjust this time frame. The important thing to keep in mind is that we want people to be safe and not put others at risk of becoming infected. Once proper procedures and protocols are in place, we can go forward with better planning. Thanks for your patience. If you have any comments or suggestions feel free to contact me or speak with Mari Flores. Stay Tuned!

4. **Helping Our Neighbor:** I want to express my thanks to the Welcome Committee and other parishioners who have been calling some of our homebound and senior members of the parish. Thank you for checking-in on this group of valued parishioners. If anyone knows of anyone who would appreciate a friendly call from the parish, please let me know by dropping us a note or calling the office.
5. **The Collection Basket:** As you know, financially this time is devastating for our community. Some people have lost their jobs or have been out of work. Nevertheless, the parish continues to maintain the 20 parish buildings, which include the four churches and 6 detached garages that make up St. John Paul II Parish. In addition we support a cracker-jack team of parish employees, several of whom continue to work from home.

Thank you to the many people who have been able to continue and even increase their weekly offering! We are so happy for this generous, and in some cases heroic support. Thank You!

Should you be able to financially assist your parish, please send a check to: St. John Paul II Parish, 145 9th St., Idaho Falls, ID 83404. Or you can drop it by the red Mail Drop located at the parish offices. Or the best and most secure way to help us is to sign up for Online Giving, donate through the Diocesan or parish website, or do a direct deposit from your bank account. Through Online Giving you can make a one-time gift or set up for a recurring gift – it's easy! For more information go to the parish website, ifcatholics.net and click on Online Giving. Or call the parish office and we will be happy to walk you through the steps to sign up for this way of giving. Thank you!

6. Online Schedule:

- **Sunday Masses:** Saturday Vigil Mass in English @ 5pm
Sunday Mass in English and Spanish @ 10am
- **Daily Masses:** 8:15am in English; 7:00pm in Spanish.
- **Chit-Chat with the 3 Amigos:** Your priests continue to stay connected with you through our online chats. Tune in for a different Chit-Chat each day, Monday – Wednesday at 5:30pm.
- **Adoration/Rosary:** On Thursdays we are doing the Rosary and Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament at 6pm. Join us for prayer to an end to this pandemic.

7. **Weekly Bulletin:** Be sure to go to our website to see the online parish bulletin for more information.

8. **Parish Group Email:** If you want to receive parish emails directly, send your name and email address to: jpii@cableone.net.