
Settling in for the long haul...

Dear Friends in Christ,

As you know, yesterday Governor Northam issued a "stay-at-home" executive decree effective until...*June 10th*. That means we will have to bear this cross for several more months. Clearly, we need to settle in for the long haul. So far, we have had to postpone our Confirmation Masses, First Communion Masses, and the reception of converts into the Church at the Easter Vigil. Not to mention, of course, the regular public offering of Mass and distribution of Communion. Please, God, don't make us wait until June to resume administration of the Sacraments!

Thankfully, the Governor's decree does not prohibit "traveling to and from one's residence, *place of worship*, or work." So, we can continue our hours of adoration of the Blessed Sacrament and times for confession (always in observance of the ten-person limit).

Please make note of the special plenary indulgences extended by Pope Francis "to the faithful suffering from Coronavirus"...to "health care workers, family members and all those who care for the sick of Coronavirus"...and "to those faithful who offer a visit to the Blessed Sacrament, or Eucharistic adoration, or reading the Holy Scriptures for at least half an hour, or the recitation of the Holy Rosary, or the pious exercise of the Way of the Cross, or the recitation of the Chaplet of Divine Mercy, to implore from Almighty God the end of the epidemic, relief for those who are afflicted and eternal salvation for those whom the Lord has called to Himself."

Click [here](#) for more information on indulgences in general and on the special indulgences granted by Pope Francis.

Updates...

Adoration. I've extended hours of adoration so that we now have it Monday through Friday, from Noon to 6:30 p.m. It's very inspiring to see how many people have signed up. Thank you for your prayers!

Confessions. Our revised confession schedule continues this week: Monday to Friday 11:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m. to 8p.m.

Food Distribution. *Thank you* to our social outreach volunteers. The regular First Friday food distribution will continue. It won't be in the same manner, obviously. But we will make it happen, since especially now we want to make sure that we tend to those in need.

Live streaming. Thanks for the feedback on what's going well and what's going...not well. I am aware that sound is an issue for some of you and I hope we will have new equipment soon to remedy that. Hey, we're just glad that someone wants to hear us!

Through the intercession of our Lady and Saint James, may the Lord bless and keep you.

Sincerely in Christ,

Fr. Scalia



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