



[The Church of Saint Ignatius Loyola](#)

St. Ignatius Loyola response to COVID-19

First and foremost, Father Mosley and I assure you of our concern for your well-being during these difficult days as we respond to the COVID-19 pandemic. We celebrate Mass daily and know that you are remembered at our Masses along with our daily prayers for your spiritually well-being at this challenging time. We also are most concerned about each of you and your loved ones as you journey through these uncharted waters and are here to assist even it is only permitted for us to communicate via the phone or the internet.

We remain focused each day on the new developments and in turn how it affects our local parish community as well as the entire world community. The decision of our government leaders implementing many restrictions including social distancing as well as the restriction of gatherings of more than ten people has compelled us to an unprecedented response in canceling all public Masses and all of our normal parish activities. We are in the midst of a pandemic and we continue to be informed daily of the impact on our world! All of our decisions are to ensure that all people are safe, our parishioners, our workers, our volunteers and especially those who continue to serve us in so many essential roles (i.e. healthcare, emergency responders, police, fire, grocery stores, pharmacies, etc...).

But we are in these uncharted waters together and right now, people's health and safety is our primary concern. We are in this present reality and we will, when it is appropriate, begin to work to restore order to our world and our local parish.

St. Ignatius Loyola parish has a strong history of rebuilding from disasters because of your faithfulness and goodness. I have trust in God and the people of God, and I am not going to let go of that – either one.

Please continue to support one another along the journey both spiritually and also in particular actions to be there for our neighbors (i.e. a phone call, a note, an errand, etc...).

Together, with God's grace we will once again join around the table of the Lord to give thanks and praise!

May our Loving God watch over you and yours during this difficult time.

God Bless!
Sincerely,
Msgr. Tressler

“Since I cannot at this moment receive you sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart.”

The Church encourages frequent, even daily, Holy Communion, but if at any time we cannot go to Mass in or out of this season of the coronavirus, we can still unite ourselves to the Eucharist through making a spiritual Communion.

By making an Act of Spiritual Communion, we express our faith in Christ’s Real Presence in the Eucharist and ask him to unite himself with us. Here is the Act of Spiritual Communion written by St. Alphonsus de Liguori:

My Jesus,

I believe that You
are present in the Most Holy Sacrament.

I love You above all things,
and I desire to receive You into my soul.

Since I cannot at this moment
receive You sacramentally,
come at least spiritually into my heart.

I embrace You as if You were already there and unite myself wholly to You.

Never permit me to be separated from You.

Amen.



Solemnity of the Annunciation of the Lord
March 25, 2020

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Four weeks ago today, Lent began with the celebration of Ash Wednesday and its cherished invitation to rend our hearts and return to the Lord. We embraced this holy season of penance, sacrifice and conversion, hoping and praying that as Lent annually carries us to Holy Week and Easter, our lives of faith would be renewed and reflect a bit more clearly the life and love of Jesus. On Ash Wednesday, none of us could have imagined the depth of sacrifice that the current health crisis would demand of us.

On March 16, 2020, I suspended the celebration of all public Masses in the eleven counties of the Diocese of Scranton. While so many of you expressed how heartbroken you were with this decision, you embraced it willingly in a spirit of faith and self-sacrifice in order that the Church could do its part in mitigating the spread of the coronavirus.

Today, sadly, we are called to sacrifice even further for the sake of serving one another in our battle against this dreaded disease. The cherished Liturgies of Holy Week and Easter – Palm Sunday, the Mass of the Lord’s Supper followed by Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, the Celebration of the Lord’s Passion, the Great Vigil of Easter and Easter Sunday Masses – will all be celebrated privately, without all of you, the blessed faithful who make up the Diocese of Scranton – filling our churches as you have always done during these most sacred days. The Chrism Mass will be deferred to a later date when the current health crisis has passed.

While this ongoing pandemic is calling us to be socially distant from one another, it does not mean we need to be spiritually distant. I invite you and your family to join me in prayer as we renew our efforts to turn to the Lord. While not open to the public, all of our Holy Week liturgies at the Cathedral of Saint Peter in Scranton will be broadcast on CTV: Catholic Television and live-streamed on the Diocese of Scranton’s website and social media platforms. Many parishes will also plan to broadcast their own Masses.

As we seek to come to terms with this latest casualty of the coronavirus, I want to share with you a recent encouraging directive of the Holy See regarding the Sacrament of Reconciliation, firmly rooted in the traditions of our Church. With the increasing difficulty for individuals to receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation due to the current health crisis, the faithful are reminded that by having perfect contrition, one can receive the forgiveness of sins apart from going to confession. Perfect contrition requires the following three things: a love of God above all else; a sincere desire for the forgiveness from sin; and the resolution to go to confession as soon as possible when this health crisis subsides. Please take consolation in knowing that while you may not have access to the Sacrament of Reconciliation, the power and love of God is far greater than we can imagine. For all who sincerely express contrition, your sins are forgiven.

My friends, in so many respects, it seems that the disciplines of Lent will last a bit longer this year as we continue to sacrifice, to pray and to serve in unimaginable ways. Yet, through God's grace, I hope that we can begin to see one of the blessings of this difficult moment in our lives. In the midst of this crisis, so many of you are responding generously and courageously to the Gospel invitation to walk in the footsteps of Jesus, sacrificing our own well-being and serving selflessly the lives that God places in our own.

As we confront the uncertainty of our future, may we recognize that our greatest hope has always been rooted in our embrace of the mystery of Jesus' suffering, death and resurrection – the heart of our faith as Christians. Good Friday, with its suffering and pain, always yields to power of Easter and its promise of life and peace! So too will this moment in our lives.

May God continue to bless you and your family and keep you safe.

Saint Joseph, pray for us!

Faithfully yours in Christ,

† *Joseph C. Bambera*

Most Reverend Joseph C. Bambera, D.D., J.C.L.
Bishop of Scranton

DIRECTIVES FROM THE APOSTOLIC PENITENTIARY OF THE HOLY SEE TO BE USED IN THE DIOCESE OF SCRANTON

Please disseminate the following information regarding Perfect Contrition widely.

PERFECT CONTRITION

With the increasing difficulty for individuals to receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation due to the current health crisis, the faithful of the Diocese of Scranton are reminded that by having perfect contrition one can receive the forgiveness of sins, apart from going to confession.

Perfect contrition requires the following three things:

- A love of God above all else
- A sincere desire for the forgiveness from sin
- The resolution to go to confession as soon as possible when this health crisis subsides

PLENARY INDULGENCE

His Holiness, Pope Francis, has also granted a **plenary indulgence** under specific conditions.

The faithful who qualify for a plenary indulgence during the coronavirus pandemic:

- Those suffering from the coronavirus illness
- Health care workers, family members, and others caring for those with the coronavirus (exposing themselves to the virus)

The faithful must do at least one of the following:

- Unite yourself spiritually through the media in the celebration of the Holy Mass
- Recite the Rosary
- Pious practice of the Way of the Cross (or other forms of devotion)
- Recite the Creed, the Lord's Prayer, and a Hail Mary

The faithful must be willing to perform all of the following as soon as possible: (considered the three usual conditions for a plenary indulgence)

- Going to Confession
- Receiving Holy Communion
- Praying for the intentions of Pope Francis

Financial Update

March 15th

Sunday Tithe
\$7,684.00

E-Offerings
\$170.00

Total
\$7,854.00

Amount Needed
Each Week to
Meet Expenses
\$12,060.00

March 22nd

Sunday Tithe
\$3,542.00

E-Offerings
\$150.00

Total
\$3,692.00

Amount Needed
Each Week to
Meet Expenses
\$12,060.00

Thank you to all who continue to support our parish mission through on-line giving, mailing in envelopes or dropping their envelopes in our mailbox.

Together we will persevere with God's grace and presence in our lives.



