

Christ the King Catholic Church
Statement Regarding the Coronavirus
March 18, 2020

My Dear People,

These are very difficult and unsettling times that requires sacrifices of us all for the greater good. I want to assure you of my prayers through this all. Though we will no longer be able to have public masses during this time, we will keep the church (not OLQA Chapel) open for prayer daily. Christ the King is a beautiful community of faith and that will not change even if we are unable to be around each other physically for the time being. Please continue to pray for one another and please reach out to those who may be isolated or afraid. I do not know how long this will last, but be assured that the priests here at Christ the King will continue to celebrate daily the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass (albeit privately in the Rectory chapel). I know that not having mass will be very difficult for many of you, but (instead of asking for special exemptions) it is not that different than those times in our history (and even today) when people were not able to go to mass because of persecutions. The faith was not lost because people like you kept the faith at home among their families through other prayers and devotions. May we never again take the Eucharist for granted! I look forward to the day when we can resume our normal activities, but until then, let us all find opportunities to pray in private that this crisis may pass and that we emerge from this stronger than ever!

- Fr. Len

Masses Suspended

By decree of Bishop Parkes, all public masses in the Diocese of St. Petersburg are hereby suspended effectively immediately until it can be determined that it is safe to return to normal schedules and public worship. [Click here](#) to read the statement.

Event Cancellations/Postponements

As recommended by the CDC, we have cancelled or postponed all gatherings or events of 10 or more people. This includes bible studies, Religious Education classes, Friday Lenten Meals & Stations of the Cross, our Parish Mission and more. To see the complete list, [click here](#).

Church Available for Prayer

While no Mass will be held, the church will remain open for prayer during regular hours (7:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m.). Our Lady Queen of Angels will be closed until further notice.

Adoration

Adoration will still take place on Wednesdays, 9:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. (in the church). The nursery will NOT be available.

Confession

Due to the confined space of the confessionals, **Confession will take place in the St. Michael Courtyard** beginning today, March 18. Our regular confession times are listed below, note we plan to expand opportunities for confessions in the coming days.

Wednesday	7:00 to 8:00 p.m.
Saturday	4:15 to 5:15 p.m.

Watch Mass From Home

We are working on having Mass, celebrated by Fr. Len, Fr. Jacob & Fr. Curtis, available to you online. Please watch our website and/or social media for more information. There are also a number of other options available online, by radio or television. [Click here](#) to learn more.

Pray

"It is in times like these that we should turn to our faith in God even more." If you missed Fr. Len's article in this last weekend's bulletin, [click here](#). We will be providing resources and links for you to use at home to deepen your prayer life and continue growth in your faith. This information will be posted once available. (At the bottom of this document is a prayer for a pandemic.)

Take Care of One Another

Do your part to prevent the spread of the Coronavirus and follow all guidelines provided by the [CDC](#). Check-in with your elderly neighbors and see if you can assist them with errands. As Fr. Len tweeted yesterday, *"Please, please take the spread of the #coronavirus seriously! We owe it to our elderly, the Greatest Generation, by NOT going out and continuing life as normal. They won WW2 through heroic sacrifices; let's do our part by making the sacrifice of social distancing. Stay home!"*

Stay Informed

As we navigate this unprecedented situation, all updates will be posted on this [dedicated page](#) of our website. Please check in for the most up to date information, all is subject to change. You can also join our parish community on Facebook ([@CTKTampa](#)) and Twitter ([@FrLen](#) and [@CTKTampa](#)).

Christ the King Catholic Church
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Visit [CTK-Tampa.org](#)
Connect with us on [Facebook](#) & [Twitter](#)
Parish Office: 813.876.5841

PRAYER FOR A PANDEMIC

May we who are merely inconvenienced
Remember those whose lives are at stake.

May we who have no risk factors
Remember those most vulnerable.

May we who have the luxury of working from
home, Remember those who must choose
between preserving their health or making their
rent. May we who have the flexibility to care for
our children when their schools close,
Remember those who have no options.

May we who have to cancel our trips
Remember those that have no place to go.
May we who are losing our margin money in the
tumult of the economic market, Remember
those who have no margin at all.

May we who settle in for a quarantine at home
Remember those who have no home.
During this time when we cannot physically wrap
our arms around each other, Let us yet find
ways to be the loving embrace of God to our
neighbors. Amen.

- Rev. Larry Tensi, St. Columban Catholic Church, Archdiocese of Cincinnati



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