Saint Vincent de Paul Parish Coronavirus Updates

Dear friends,

We are monitoring the situation to identify and implement the most effective strategies for mitigating the spread of the coronavirus and protecting the health of our community. This is of the utmost importance to me and will be the basis of any decisions we make. We understand that a comprehensive response includes not only individual efforts like regular hand-washing and sanitizing of surfaces, but collective, proactive procedures to minimize the impact on the elderly, those with underlying health conditions and those most at-risk of infection.

With that in mind, and with the announcement that DePaul University is cancelling public events (https://resources.depaul.edu/coronavirus-covid-19-updates/Pages/default.aspx), we have cancelled the Parish Fish Fry scheduled to take place this Friday, March 13. Everyone who has already paid for a ticket will be reimbursed by the parish.

At this time, all other parish events and meetings will continue as scheduled, although we urge everyone to follow CDC guidelines for washing of hands and disinfecting of surfaces. It is important to note that the situation is evolving on a daily basis, and other cancellations or rescheduling may become necessary in the days and weeks to come.

Celebration of Mass and the sacraments will continue in conformity with the guidelines previously announced by the parish and the Archdiocese of Chicago:

- During the Sign of Peace, offer a friendly wave to people around you as opposed to shaking hands.
- Holy Communion will not be offered from the chalice.
- Given the potential for passing on illnesses in the distribution of Holy Communion on the tongue, please prayerfully consider receiving Holy Communion reverently in your hands for the time being.

If you are sick or are experiencing symptoms of sickness, you are not obliged to attend Mass. Stay home and get better!

As the situation rapidly changes, we will continue to take proactive measures that are driven by care for all of our community. As I said, my top concern is the health and well-being of our community. That will always be at the top of my mind as we continue adjusting our lives to these uncertain times. As well, we continue to pray for those who are ill, those who have died and those who care for and minister to them. I urge all of you to be prudent and remain calm, to stay hopeful that we will get through this, and trust in the presence of the Lord in our midst. God is always with us, especially when challenges arise.