

## *Saint Vincent de Paul Parish Coronavirus Updates*

Dear Friends,

As many of you may have already heard, Cardinal Cupich has suspended public mass in the archdiocese beginning tomorrow March 14. This, of course, means that we will not have Sunday or weekday masses at St. Vincent de Paul until further notice.

The Cardinal also asked us to try and limit gatherings, especially when people who are more vulnerable to the effects of the virus, e.g., people over 60 or with underlying health conditions, are present. With that in mind, and out of my concern for the health and well-being of all of our community, I am also cancelling all parish events that have been scheduled, beginning with Stations of the Cross this evening. This includes religious education, RCIA, Alpha, rosary and other events. We will continue our soup kitchen operations (with some adaptations) for the time being. I will be available during this time if you need me. The church will also be available for private prayer when the office is open from 8am-5pm; come to the parish office and the receptionist will let you in.

Mass is still available on television and the Internet to unite yourselves in prayer with and for one another. We are weighing options here to broadcast Sunday mass on Facebook; keep checking on our Facebook page and website for updates.

This decision weighs on me because I know your faith and love for God and one another. We have all put much energy and dedication to building up our community of faith. But now is the time for us to take care of ourselves and one another. At mass today, I said that in times like these, we need to stand together as community – virtual or otherwise. The “better angels of our nature” need to overcome fear, anxiety and panic. And the resurrection of Jesus shows that God can bring about good from any situation. We need to trust this now. We will get through this.

I would close this update with something that Cardinal Cupich said today:

“In this time of legitimate concern for the safety of ourselves, our loved ones and those at the margins of society, we must hold fast to the knowledge that the impulses that come from God bring courage, consolation, generosity and solidarity. Instead of allowing this moment to trap us in fear, we must find unity in advancing all that is good in our common humanity. This means staying spiritually and emotionally close to one another, in our families, our friendships and our communities. It means helping where possible and safe. It means checking on the vulnerable. It means being responsible about hygiene. This is a time to be gentle with one another. For Christians, it is a time to reflect on how Jesus made those struggling with illness a priority. It is also a time to be surprised by the blessings that come from being part of the same family—the human family.”

May God bless you all and keep you safe,  
Father Jeremy