

Dear Friends,

Please help me reach other parishioners who may not have email or an ability to visit our parish website. If you know someone who has an email address, but has not received these messages, please pass their email address on to me, so I can add them to future updates.

The situation surrounding the current health crisis has necessitated regular updates from the Bishop of our Diocese and I am bringing these updates to your attention by means of this email.

Last night I received the latest update from Bishop DiMarzio. Below are **NEW MANDATES** for all parishes:

Please keep these points in mind:

- By **MANDATE** from our Bishop, all churches in the Diocese of Brooklyn and Queens must remain closed. This is in effect until future notice.
- The Bishop has also **MANDATED** that all Rectory Offices remain closed for business.
- The Bishop has already **DISPENSED** the faithful from the obligation to attend Mass. He has now also granted a dispensation from the law of **ABSTINENCE** for the Fridays of Lent for this year.
- At this time all sacramental services will be suspended in our churches. This includes Funerals. If absolutely necessary, a graveside service can be done. Weddings will be postponed.
- Confessions will only be heard in cases of emergency. Please call the rectory to make an appointment with a priest for confession (718-821-2323).
- There will be no Stations of the Cross, Palm Sunday Masses, Holy Week Services or Easter Sunday Masses in our parish church.
- While there will be no public Masses, the priests will offer private masses for scheduled Mass intentions.
- All other parish meetings and activities are suspended.
- All in-person **Religious Education Classes** are canceled until further notice.
- Remember to check our parish website frequently to get updates <https://stpancras-queens.org/>
- If you know anyone who would like to be added to our email notification list, to get individual updates, please have them use the Parish Website or go to: <https://www.givecentral.org/stpancras> to sign up.
- Consider using the option of **Online Giving** to help support the parish at this time.

Please see the attached files for a form that will explain how you may use Online Giving to support us to whatever extent possible. As you know, due to the elimination of Mass, we will be severely limited in the financial support needed to keep the parish running due to the loss of parishioner's contributions.

I again ask everyone to spend time each day, to prayerfully ask our Lord to protect us, heal us, and lead us closer to Him. Bishop DiMarzio has recorded a Facebook Video message to all the faithful in the Diocese. Clicking the following link: <https://www.facebook.com/bishopdimarzio/videos/203475284307891/>

Let us continue to pray for healing, strength and courage. May Our Lady, the Immaculate Conception, intercede for us.

Fr. Hughes