March 12, 2020

Dear Parish Community,

Given the rapidly changing situation with Covid-19 in the Seattle region, we as a parish staff have been meeting regularly to respond to needs and be as proactive as we can to best protect the most vulnerable members of our parish.

Out of an abundance of caution, the protocols set last week remain. Below we review those and outline new steps we’ve taken:

1. There has been no directive to cancel weekend liturgies at this time. If you are sick or feel you are getting sick, stay at home and do NOT attend Mass. Missing Mass due to illness is not sinful; it is prudent and shows care for your brothers and sisters.
   a. Weekend Masses at St. Aloysius are always live streamed at stalschurch.org.
   b. You can check our website, Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram feeds for weekend bulletins and updated information.
   c. Please update your contact information with the parish for timely updates.
   d. Sign up for text and email updates via FlockNote stals.flocknote.com

2. During Mass, we will not be joining hands during the Lord’s Prayer. At the Sign of Peace, please simply say, “Peace be with you,” instead of offering your hand.

3. During Communion, Eucharistic Ministers will use hand sanitizer before distributing Communion. The Eucharist will only be offered in the hand, with no option for receiving on the tongue. Additionally, we will refrain from offering the Precious Blood from the chalice at this time. Remember, Christ is fully present in both species.

4. You will notice that we have drained the holy water fonts in the church until further notice. Please simply bless yourself with the sign of the cross, remembering your baptism, as you enter and exit the church.
5. You will also notice that we have removed the Breaking Bread missals, Lenten worship aids, and contribution envelopes from the pews. These could inadvertently transmit viruses from one user to the next.
   a. If you’d want to ensure that we record your contribution, please use the envelopes that are mailed to you each month, give online at stalschurch.org/our-parish/donations/ or via your bank’s online bill pay. Please contact Shannon Kestell with questions at skkestell@dioceseofspokane.org.

6. Please continue to practice respiratory etiquette and good health hygiene with these recommendations from the CDC: cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/about/prevention-treatment

I’d like to close with a quote from Pope Francis from his Sunday Angelus:

I am close in prayer to all people suffering from the current coronavirus epidemic and to all those who care for them . . . I join my brother bishops in encouraging the faithful to live this difficult moment with strength of faith, the certainty of hope, and the fervor of charity. . . The season of Lent helps us all to give an evangelical sense also to this moment of trial and pain. - Pope Francis, March 8, 2020

Let us continue to pray for everyone involved – especially as we continue our Lenten journey. Thank you for your understanding and attention to detail in these matters.

Yours in Christ,

Fr. Tom Lamanna, SJ
Pastor