St. John the Evangelist Roman Catholic Church 49 George Street, York (Weston), Ontario M9N 2B4 Tel: 416-241-0133 Fax: 416-248-0471 Email: stjohntheevangelistwe@archtoronto.org Website: stjohntheevangelistwe.archtoronto.org **Parish Staff Sacrament of Baptism** Rev. A. Maderak, Pastor Please call the parish office to arrange to discuss

Rev. Mr. Oswald D'Paiva, Deacon Sheila Mills, Secretary

Office Hours Monday, Wednesday to Friday 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Mass Schedule

Closed on Tuesdays

Sunday Masses: Saturday Vigil 5:00 p.m. Sunday 9:00 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. Weekday Masses: Monday, Wednesday, Friday and Saturday 9:00 a.m. Tuesday, Thursday 7:00 p.m.

Parish School

St. John the Evangelist Catholic School 23 George Street, York (Weston), ON M9N 2B4 Tel: 416-393-5244 Fax: 416-393-5032

New to the Parish

If you are new to St. John the Evangelist please introduce yourself to the priest after Mass. Be sure to complete a registration form.

your child's Baptism.

Sacrament of Marriage

The parish congratulates all newly engaged couples and reminds them that, by Archdiocesan Policy, they are required to contact the parish office at least one year in advance of the proposed marriage.

Sacrament of Reconciliation

Saturdays from 4:00 p.m. - 4:30 p.m. or by appointment by calling the parish office.

Priesthood or Religious Life

For information on Priesthood or Religious Life, please contact Fr. Chris Lemieux, Vocation Director, Archdiocese of Toronto at 416-968-0997. Vocation website: www.vocationstoronto.ca

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

Eucharistic Adoration takes place every Friday after the 9:00 a.m. Mass and concludes with Benediction at 10:30 a.m.

March 17, 2020

My dear faithful of the Archdiocese of Toronto,

I wish to provide you with a further update on our response as a Christian community to the COVID-19 situation which is evolving rapidly. Today, the Premier of Ontario has declared a state of emergency.

For the duration of this health emergency, I decree that the following be implemented in all parishes, missions and chaplaincies throughout the Archdiocese of Toronto:

Mass – In view of the requirements of the Government of Ontario, during this medical emergency, beginning Tuesday, March 17, 2020, I instruct that **all public Masses be cancelled, both during the week and on the weekend**. Churches will be available for individual private prayer.

The faithful will be able to watch, <u>via livestream</u>, a Mass which will be celebrated every day at 7:30 a.m. at St. Michael's Cathedral Basilica, which will be followed by the Angelus and the Rosary. I will personally celebrate this Mass as much as is possible.

This Mass, Rosary and Angelus will also be available on the <u>Archdiocese of Toronto's YouTube channel</u> for those who cannot join at 7:30 a.m. These Masses and prayers will be offered for the intentions of everyone as we go through these trying times. In addition, Mass will be broadcast daily on <u>Salt & Light Catholic Media Foundation</u>, <u>VisionTV (Daily TV Mass)</u> and <u>EWTN</u>.

So many of our brothers and sisters in Christ around the world are deprived of the opportunity to celebrate the Holy Eucharist, for many reasons. Due to this health emergency we also will now experience their suffering. Perhaps this sacrifice will help us to cherish more profoundly the great gift of the Holy Eucharist. There is no substitute for personally participating in the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass, which is the source and summit of our life in Christ, and we pray for the time when this may be universally available once more.

It is important to follow carefully the provisions of the health authorities, but it also essential that our spiritual life be enhanced and strengthened all the more during this crisis. At this time, when we are reminded of the brevity of life and of our own mortality, we are called to go deeper to our spiritual foundations.

I encourage all people who remain at home and who are cut off from regular social interaction to engage in prayer – to pray the Rosary, to read the Scriptures and to offer prayers for those who are suffering the most in this crisis.

We should also pray for the health care workers and others who are engaged in fighting this pandemic on the frontlines.

First Holy Communion, First Reconciliation and Confirmation will be postponed for the duration of the emergency.

Sacrament of Reconciliation – Communal celebrations of the Sacrament of Reconciliation are not allowed at this time. All those who wish to receive the sacrament should contact a priest. The sacrament is to be celebrated not in a confessional but rather in another location, where confidentiality may be ensured and where the distance required by the health officials can be maintained.

Funerals – During this emergency, there will be no funerals, vigils or wake services. The Rite of Committal will take place with the immediate family at the cemetery.

Parish Meetings and Events are cancelled at this time.

We will review our emergency provisions regularly in accord with the requirements of the public health officials and we will provide updates at: www.archtoronto.org/covid19.

Once again, we pray for those suffering and for those who are caring for the sick. We are facing many trials during our Lenten journey this year. We take these to prayer, and look for opportunities to be the face of Jesus to all those whom we encounter. May God continue to bless you.

In Christ, *Thomas Cardinal Collins* Archbishop of Toronto *For the full letter, please visit the Archdiocesan website at;www.archtoronto.org*

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Our Lenten video sessions, *No Greater Love, A Biblical Walk Through Christ's Passion*, held on Tuesday evenings are cancelled.

First Holy Communion and Confirmation sessions will be postponed for the duration of the COVID-19 situation. The date for First Holy Communion and Confirmation may need to be rescheduled.

Cardinal Thomas Collins in consultation with the Chief Medical Officer of the Province of Ontario has asked that all Catholic Parishes cancel all public Masses. This includes weekend, weekday and funeral Masses. The Cardinal has granted the faithful dispensation from their Sunday obligation for the next two weekends. (This means that you are not required to go to Mass this Sunday and it is not a sin because of the dispensation)

The Church will be open for private prayer during most times when Mass was regularly scheduled:

Tuesday, Thursday 7:00 - 8:00 p.m. Wednesday, Saturday 9:00 - 10:00 a.m. Friday there will be Eucharistic Adoration from 9:00 - 10:00

STATIONS OF THE CROSS ON FRIDAYS ARE CANCELLED

On Saturday afternoon the Church will be open from 4:30 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.

There will be a Holy Hour on Saturday from 5:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.

The Church will be open on Sunday for Eucharistic Adoration from 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 noon.

Our parish office will remain closed until further notice.

THIS IS EFFECTIVE UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE. PLEASE CONSULT OUR WEBSITE FOR UPDATES. **Liturgical Publications** 3171 LENWORTH DR. #12 MISSISSAUGA, ON L4X 2G6 905-624-4422

