

17 March 2020

“So do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand”. Isaiah 41:10

Dear Parishioners and Friends,

We are aware of the rapidly developing guidelines regarding the coronavirus. Our number one priority is to ensure the safety and health of all who attend our Divine Liturgies, the children in our schools, and those we welcome through our outreach and services. In accordance with direction from the State of Michigan and the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), and out of pastoral concern, both Immaculate Conception Ukrainian Catholic Church and St. Josaphat Ukrainian Catholic Church will be closed until further notice. To be clear, no services will be held for the public. This includes Stations of the Cross, baptisms, and weddings.

As IC and St. Josaphat make their pilgrimage through the Lenten Season, please be assured of our continuing prayerful encouragement and support.

Though our churches are closed to the public, pastors will continue the celebration of Divine Liturgy and parishioners may call or email their special intentions directly to the churches for inclusion. For IC Church: (frdanieltchai@gmail.com), for St. Josaphat: (stjucch@aol.com) All the Catholic Faithful are asked to observe the Lord's Day with reverence and in spiritual communion with one another.

For those wishing to celebrate Divine Liturgy from afar on Sundays, we're including a link to (<http://news.ugcc.ua>), that is televising their Sunday services. We will continue to be in contact with you send you information via email and Social media, etc.

While times are trying, they provide an opportunity to develop the Domestic Church. Pray at home, together as a family, and explore God's holy word in the Bible for strength and comfort.

Let us be united in prayer that God, who is our refuge and strength, will give us courage and perseverance in charity during this time, that we might remain healthy and encourage our brothers and sisters who are ill. Through the intercession of Our Lady of the Blessed Virgin, in Her particular privilege of the Immaculate Conception, may you be kept safe from all harm and uplifted by your Lenten prayer and fasting.

Please know that this decision does not come lightly to cancel Divine Liturgy. We are profoundly saddened that we are not able to celebrate our sacraments as a community for the time being, but we know Christ remains with us at all times – specifically in times of worry like this. Be sure that every day we will be offering a Divine Liturgy for your health and for the health of all those who are taking care of those in need.

May the peace of Christ settle any anxieties and fear we may have. Let us continue to pray for the people whose lives have been impacted by the coronavirus as well as those who continue to care for them.

And please, pray for your Priests.

Keep faith, it all will be over soon, God is amongst us!

In Christ and Saint Basil,

Father Daniel Schaicoski, OSBM
Pastor/Superior