

NOTICE

In order to facilitate the celebration and recording of the 7:30am Live-Streamed Mass, the Oratory chapel will be closed to the public from 7:30-8:00am, Monday-Friday. This will not effect morning Confessions, which will still be heard at 7am.

Hello everyone,

These are strange days. The public health crisis spreading around the globe has affected the Church's activity in unprecedented ways, and now its effects are being felt here. I wanted to share with you the Oratory's initial approach to the crisis. I say "initial" because we may very well have to modify our plans as the public health situation develops.

Mass:

First, in accord with the bishop's announcement of March 15, **we will no longer be celebrating public Masses at the Oratory until further notice.** The priests here will continue to celebrate private Masses at which all of the Mass intentions that have been requested will be offered.

We pledge to do our best to help you keep the celebration of the sacred mysteries at the center of your prayer life! My hope is that the Oratory will develop a way to "live stream" our private Masses via the internet. Our plan for the time being is to celebrate a private Mass at the usual time of 7:30. We hope you can join us on-line. So far we have had the most luck broadcasting via Facebook, but we are still working to address certain technical difficulties. If you are not connected with the Oratory's social media, now would be a great time to get involved. We will be sending out updates via email and social media outlets.

Confession:

Our intention as of this moment is to maintain our usual Confession schedule. We ask for your cooperation in maintaining a healthy environment. The greatest difficulty in this regard will be for the people waiting for the confessional

to maintain an appropriate distance from each other. We are still thinking about how to do that; in the meantime, do your best!

Until further notice, confessions will continue to be heard each day at 7am, 12pm and 4:30pm.

Other sacraments:

Our intention as of this moment is to celebrate all of the other sacraments as they are needed in whatever way we are able. Please be in touch with us regarding your needs. In the Bishop's recent announcement that Masses are canceled he said to expect more information regarding the celebration of the other sacraments, so we are likely to have more information in the near future.

Adoration:

Our intention is to maintain our program of perpetual adoration. Since adoration is by nature a solitary activity we foresee no significant changes to the program.

Undergraduate Students:

It saddens us deeply to announce that almost **all of our student programming has been suspended for the semester.** This includes, of course, Catholic Action. Students are encouraged to maintain the schedule of their Bible studies as best as they are able. Do not forget about on-line possibilities! The Spring Soirée and our Baccalaureate dinner are also canceled.

Graduate Students:

There was some initial hope that the small size of graduate student gatherings would allow them to continue, but it is clear that that public health protocols rule them out. Again, let's work together to continue our fellowship on-line.

Retreats:

All retreats are canceled, as is the service trip to Jamaica that was to take place in May.

Secular Oratory:

All of the activities of the Secular Oratory are suspended until further notice. This includes Fr. David's St. Isaac the Syrian study group, Schola Christi, meetings of The Daughters of St. Philip Neri, the Wednesday Morning Bible Study, and the Oratory Lecture Series. We look forward to resuming these activities when it is appropriate to do so.

God bless you all! Let us make the most of the opportunities available to us in the current crisis. Let us persevere in prayer that the Church may be able to complete her work everywhere and for the well-being of all.

In Christ and St. Philip Neri,

Fr. Michael Darcy, C.O.
Provost
The Oratory, Pittsburgh