

Dear Friends,

In light of Governor Pritzker's mandatory shelter-in-place order, the Archdiocese of Chicago has sent the following communication (additional comments by me will be in **RED**):

Governor Pritzker has announced a mandatory shelter-in-place order for the State of Illinois. What this means for our parishes is that effective 5 p.m. Saturday, March 21 through Tuesday, April 7:

- *All churches and adoration chapels must be closed and locked until the order is lifted by the governor. Private prayer in any parish building must be discontinued until the order is lifted. Unfortunately, this means people will no longer be able to pray in the church. I am truly sorry about that.*
- *There can be no live Stations of the Cross or any other gatherings anywhere on parish/school property, nor can any parish personnel be involved in organizing them on any other site.*
- *All weddings and baptisms must be postponed and can be re-scheduled only once the order is lifted. There are no exceptions to this, regardless of the size of the group. Funerals and wakes must be postponed until the order is lifted.*
- *(Note: Priests can – and are encouraged – to continue celebrating Mass privately and to livestream their Masses for their parishioners, if possible. The priests at St. Theresa have been offering daily Mass since the beginning of the restrictions last week. We will be livestreaming Mass daily beginning on Sunday morning. Another email will be coming with details on how you can access that and times of Masses.*
- *Parish offices must be closed until the governor's order is lifted. This directive shuts down the parish completely. No receptionist will be on duty, but one of the priests will be carrying a cell phone to respond to EMERGENCIES only. You will be given directions on how to access that when you call the main parish telephone line at: 847-358-7760.*

Please know how difficult it is not to be able to offer the sacraments, opportunities for prayer, education and formation of our adults and children and all the other things we do so well at St. Theresa Parish. We all pray that the restrictions mandated by Governor Pritzker and Cardinal Cupich will help to slow down the COVID-19 virus and begin to move our lives back to normal as quickly as possible.

Please continue to pray for everyone impacted by the coronavirus pandemic, and in a particular way, pray for those who have lost their lives to this terrible disease.

Thanks and God bless you all.
Fr. Tim Fairman