

We thank everyone for their patience right now as we change schedules and cancel events due to the COVID19, and per Bishop Powers' directives. Below are some questions and answers that may be helpful for all of you at this time. If you have additional questions, feel free to call the parish office.

Q: Are all Masses canceled, or just weekday Masses?

A: All Masses—weekday AND weekend Masses are “suspended from public celebration” until further notice from Bishop. Father Raj, however, will still celebrate Mass daily and privately.

Q: So, I do not need to attend Mass at this time?

A: We are unable to attend Mass at this time, because it is not offered. However, that does not mean that Sundays are days designed for ourselves and not God. People are encouraged, even asked by Bishop, to do alternative practices: Gather with family in your homes to watch Mass on television. You can pray the Rosary or other special prayers. You can read Scripture together and share what the Word means to each of you. Please also remember to keep contact with your friends via phone or the internet—especially the elderly and shut-ins. They may be needing help getting groceries, etc.

Q: How can I find Mass on television?

A: Thanks to one of our parishioners, the following information was provided:

1. Starting mid-March, Fr. Larry Richards uploaded his private Mass at Youtube. It is expected to be on going. Go to Youtube.com. Just type into the Search - Fr. Larry Richards, then page down to Daily Mass.
2. Also, Mass from Canada (a day behind) at <https://dailytvmass.com> That daily Mass is on YouTube at 7:00 am weekdays.
3. From Dish satellite, Channel 261, Daily Mass at 7am, 6pm, 11 pm.
4. Channel 12 has Sunday Mass at 6:30 am.

Q: Are we able to come to church yet?

A: Yes, church doors are expected to be open most days until 3:30 pm, with the exception of possibly being closed Sunday afternoons. Without Mass being offered for everyone, this is a time of great temptation. The Holy Eucharist is our source of spiritual strength during times of temptation. we are now asking everyone to pray An Act of Spiritual Communion as follows:

“My Jesus, I believe that You are present in the Most Holy Sacrament. I love You above all things, and I desire to receive You into my soul. Since I cannot at this moment receive You sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart. I embrace You as if You were already there and unite myself wholly to You. Never permit me to be separated from You. Amen.”

Q: I have not gone to Confession yet this Lent. Will there still be an opportunity for me to go?

A: Yes. Although our Reconciliation Service was cancelled, Father Raj will be available Tuesday through Saturday, from Noon until 3 pm, should you wish to go. Simply ask him when you come. We do ask that you go behind the screen, rather than face-to-face at this time. If you prefer to go to Confession at another time, call the parish office to schedule a time that works for both you and Father Raj.

Q: Are any measures being taken in church to protect those who come to visit Jesus?

A: Yes. Hand sanitizer is available for everyone in the church entrance, and on the table in the center aisle of church for your use. Door handles will be wiped down often. Wipes are available at the entrance of the confessional, if you wish to wipe down the door knob as you enter/leave.

Q: How will our finances be handled at this time?

A: Although we do not offer online giving at this time, you can mail your giving envelopes to the parish office (PO Box 295, Rib Lake, WI 54470), or drop them off at the office. A basket will also be placed on the small table in the center aisle of the church when church doors are open. We encourage you, especially at this time, to please pay by check, as a safety measure. Since we just paid our property and liability insurances last month (over \$6,000), those who are still able to contribute, your support is appreciated.

NEW NOTICE: March 24, Bishop Powers offered another means of giving for the parishes in our Diocese. Read his letter on this home page about online giving.

It is easy to do: Go to Diocese of Superior website. On their home page, right side of the screen under Direct Parish Giving, click Give Online Today. You can then, on the right side, indicate your donation for Rib Lake, choose the dollar amount and if it is a recurring payment or not. Then you can enter your account information for your donation.

Q: What about our Parish Fish Fry, Lenten videos and Palm Sunday Brunch?

A: The fish fry is postponed, and a date will be decided after things return to normal. Even if we have it after Easter, that is no problem. Our Lenten videos will also continue when we are able to meet again—even after Easter. Our Palm Sunday Brunch has been cancelled.

Q: What about Easter and the Triduum services?

A: We await word from the Bishop, who cannot answer that at this time either. We must wait and see.

Q: How will I be informed of updates?

A: Check this website often. We are expecting to still print bulletins for each weekend. They can be picked up in the church entrance. The new bulletins for a weekend should be available by Saturday morning. Also, our parish bulletins are available on this website (under the Bulletin tab).

Q: Will the parish office still be open?

A: Direction from the Diocese is to be open sparingly, and doors should not be open for everyone to come into the office. If you are simply dropping off a giving envelope, that can be done. If you have questions, PLEASE CALL instead, if possible. We do, however, have a food pantry, and we want people to be able to come for that if needed. Because there are only two people on full-time staff at this time, it is not such a problem. If you are unable to reach the office or Father Raj at 715-427-5259 or 715-905-0614, and there is an emergency, you can call the Mary, the parish secretary at her home 715-427-5259 or 715-783-0132.

We also ask that families join together in their homes at particular hours if they can. By doing this, we can still remain connected to one another as parish family. If you can pray at the following days and times, please do. If you cannot, then please pray when you can.

Prayer Hours:

Daily at 3:00 pm: Pray the Divine Mercy Chaplet and Litany of Trust. (You will find these prayers in the March 29th bulletin, if needed.)

Fridays, 8:00 pm: Pray and meditate on the Stations of the Cross. (Any copy is fine.)

Daily Rosary at 8:00 am or 7:00 pm as follows:

Mondays and Saturdays: Joyful Mysteries

Tuesdays and Fridays: Sorrowful Mysteries

Wednesdays and Sundays: Glorious Mysteries

Thursdays: Luminous Mysteries

May God bless and protect us all, and may the Sacred Heart of Jesus reign forever among us.