



## SAINT MARK the EVANGELIST CATHOLIC CHURCH

March 18, 2020

My dear parishioners,

By now you have heard the Archdiocese of Oklahoma City has cancelled all public Masses from now on until and including Easter Sunday. Moreover, all liturgies, such as Stations of the Cross, all non-essential meetings and gatherings are cancelled. I know this was a very difficult decision for Archbishop Coakley to make but one made out of concern for all people, especially those who might be more vulnerable to the severe effects of this virus. In light of the archbishop's directives, St. Mark's parish will suspend all Masses, liturgies, meetings and events until April 12. Those in RCIA who were planning and looking forward to entering the Church at the Easter Vigil, will enter the Church at a later time in the Easter season. Communion to the homebound and those in the hospitals will cease. All appointments with me already scheduled, will need to be rescheduled. I will continue to hear confessions on Saturday from 3:30pm-4:30pm only.

This is a sad time for our world and our Church. The Enemy has sown irrational fear into the hearts of so many people causing mass hysteria in all sectors of society, including the Church. I am asking all of you not to give in to this voice of the Enemy. There is no need for fear. Instead, courage and strength given through the grace of our Lord are called for in these times. Continue to pray for all those effected by this virus and not just those who are ill. Pray also for the thousands who have lost their jobs due to business closures, people who often live from paycheck to paycheck. Pray for the thousands of children who relied on school nutrition programs just to have one or two meals a day and no longer have that. Pray for all those who are alone and have no one to support them in this time of confusion. Pray for all our government leaders that they will make wise decisions based on sound reason, not from fear. Pray also for our Church that she may truly be that bright beacon of light in this sea of darkness offering hope and comfort to all people. Please know of my continued prayers for each and every one of you as I ask for your prayers as well

In Omnibus Caritas,