



Our Lady of Sorrows Church
March 22, 2020

From the Pastor's Desk

My Dear People:

A HUNDRED CONGRATULATIONS to Fr. Balta on his highly anticipated and successfully celebrated 25 years of priesthood. Much work, planning, and the providence of God went into the preparation. Considering the present moratorium on meetings of more than 25 people, it was the providence of God that the decision was made Saturday morning not to postpone, but to continue with the plans for the 3 p.m. celebration. We thank God for the weather, and though the warning was already out for the elderly and slightly sick to avoid crowds, Father's celebration just made it under the wire for the many who helped him with the celebration he deserved.

BISHOP BAKER met with the Consultors of the Diocese and many others, including other bishops, early Tuesday afternoon, and by the late evening he addressed a letter to the faithful of the diocese. It will appear in the *One Voice*.

I did write a letter to the Bishop and Consultors excusing myself from the meeting, avoiding crowds as a very senior citizen, and requested to retain the 6:30 and 7:30 daily Masses with endless precautions and sanitary wipes after each Mass, and begged for limited and cautious attendance for the Masses on Sunday. Three fourths of our Liturgy Committee agreed with me. However, the Bishop, who is the ultimate authority of the diocese, ruled otherwise. I admit there were good reasons on both sides of this decision, but the Bishop is the last authority, and he researched the issue endlessly.

THE SUMMARY of the bishop's letter is as follows:

1. The public celebration of Holy Mass is totally suspended in the Diocese of

Birmingham through the day before Palm Sunday.

2. The faithful are to remember the obligation to keep holy the Sabbath by a special time for devotion at home, such as the Mass on EWTN, spiritual reading, Liturgical readings for the day, and even a "Spiritual Communion."
3. Pastors are encouraged to have their churches open regularly so the faithful can come for private prayer before the Blessed Sacrament, cautious to maintain the appropriate distance from one another, and respect the crowd size. My first thought was the opening of the Chapel of Our Savior, but immediately realized it would be so crowded we would violate the admonition. So, it was decided we would open the church doors at 8 a.m. and close them at 3 p.m.
4. Confessions: There are to be no confessions in close areas. Confessions can be heard outside or inside large parish halls, safeguarding the privacy of the penitent. We will move confessions to the Parish Hall on Saturdays from 3-4 p.m.
5. Weddings, with the dispensation during Lent, are to be limited to a total of 25 people. Likewise, funerals are to be graveside only, with the option of a Memorial Mass after the coronavirus crisis is over. Even Baptisms should be delayed, except for special cases.
6. Holy water fonts are to be emptied and disinfected.
7. All church function such, as Stations of the Cross, Bingo, prayer groups, etc. are to be suspended.
8. Priests should try to accommodate reasonable pastoral requests of office visits.

9. Continue to financially support your parish and other charities.

MY PERSONAL SUMMARY: The Lord has a plan with this crisis. It could be to better unite all the countries on this earth. It could be to see who will help those who are in health or financial distress. It could be to help us all appreciate the Holy Sacrifice more than we have.

Please pray for a quick victory over the coronavirus.

With prayers and blessings,
Father Muller



Mass Intentions

Monday, Mar. 23	Special Intention Tommy Priola Jean Sertell
Tuesday, Mar. 24	Special Intention Shannon Sutherland Teresa Bono
Wednesday, Mar. 25	Special Intention Anne Tighe Sp. Int. Tony & Joanne Truitt & Sons
Thursday, Mar. 26	Special Intention Tommy Priola Tommy Priola
Friday, Mar. 27	Special Intention John Holt Rose Maggio
Saturday, Mar. 28	Donors to OLS School Foundation Rosemary Savage Tommy Priola
Sunday, Mar. 29	People of the Parish Morris Princiotta, Jr. Frank Tortorici

CHAPEL OF OUR SAVIOR

The Chapel needs permanent Committed Adorers for:

- Monday at 10 AM (Share with Partner)**
- Tuesday at 11 AM (Adorer Needed)**
- Friday at 8:00 AM (Share with Partner)**
- Friday at 11 PM (Adorer Needed)**
- Saturday at 11 AM (Share with Partner)**
- Saturday at 11 PM (Share with Partner)**

Our goal is to have at least 2 people on each hour. These are the hours needed but do select an hour that best fits your schedule. Please call Mary Claire Brouillette at 871-2909 or Trudy Carpri at 643-0248.

The Chapel is closed at the present time, but we still need adorers to fill the above timeslots.



Vita D'Amico, Mary Ann Huie, Charlie Kai Wadsworth, Melanie Gilchrist, Kennie Skellie, Buddy DiChiara, Mary Laurie Bracken, Ann LaRussa, Mike Skellie, Lillie Higgins, Norma Purdy, Harriet Dupree, Pat Salamone, Alan Pizzitola, Jude Tombrello, Claudia Tombrello, Jacob Hayes, Robbie Baldwin, and Sister Joan Harrington