



March 17, 2020

Dear member of the St. Albert the Great parish family,

I write to you regarding the way the Coronavirus will be affecting St. Albert the Great. In the midst of all the Coronavirus disruptions be reminded of God's promise: "It is the LORD who goes before you. He will be with you; he will not fail you or forsake you. Do not fear or be dismayed." (Deuteronomy 31:8). We want to be prudent but not fearful.

I hope you and your family are staying safe and healthy. For the common good, and in order to comply with government (limit of 10 people gathering) and diocesan restrictions on person-to-person contact to slow the spread of the virus, the following changes are in effect immediately at St. Albert the Great:

- All retreats occurring before May 1st are postponed
- All meetings on campus are cancelled until May 1st
- We will be offering virtual groups, virtual talks, livestreaming the mass, and livestreaming adoration so check out our website (www.saintalbert.org), Podbean site (saintalbert.podbean.org) and social media (Facebook, Twitter, Instagram) to participate
- Our parish office will maintain normal office hours in accordance with Bishop Vasquez's instructions. However, most staff will be working virtually so we will be checking emails and phone messages.
- The *Encountering Christ* Diocesan Capital Campaign has been suspended until further notice.
- **All masses are cancelled until May 1st** and will be livestreamed from the church with less than 10 people present. All masses will be livestreamed at the normal times except we will NOT be livestreaming at 8 AM and 11:45 AM. We will have funerals and weddings as needed with 10 or less people.



- Our Adoration chapel in the Palermo Center is open for 24 hour Adoration with less than 10 people being permitted at one time. We will be sanitizing the chapel regularly.

Although it is hard to think about money at a time like this, thank you for continuing to support St. Albert electronically. **We receive 80% of our offertory income via in person mass collections.** Your financial support allows us to keep paying our bills and our parish staff. Please shift your offertory collections to electronic so I will not be forced in the future to stop paying staff or take other measures to reduce expenses. I realize that some might not be able to give due to how this situation is impacting you financially. However, if you can give electronically please do so. Please also give to St. Vincent De Paul electronically if you are able. We anticipate even more people looking to the church for financial assistance. This will be hard for us because people will look to us for financial assistance when our own collections will be severely depleted. For those not signed up for electronic giving we have enclosed a handout with more information or you can go to www.saintalbert.org and click on the donate link.

St. Albert the Great is on standby to use our facilities as an emergency food pantry or emergency location for medical needs. Please know we will use our facilities in whatever way our community needs them to be used.

Please also know that it is not a sin to miss mass or confession during this time period. Our Bishop has dispensed from the obligation to attend mass physically.

This “social distancing” is not a ban on prayer. Gather as a family, pray the rosary, read scripture. Watch our virtual resources that St. Albert the Great will be offering. Although it is a work of sacrifice to fast from gathering as a parish community for prayer, we pray for all and for an end to this crisis.

You are in my prayers and please keep me in your prayers,



Fr. Charlie