



St. Joseph Church | 5050 St. Joseph's Road, Coopersburg, PA 18036 | 610.965.2877 | [www.stjoescoopersburg.org](http://www.stjoescoopersburg.org)

March 16, 2020

Dear St. Joseph Parish Family:

In an effort to help prevent the spread of Coronavirus, Bishop Alfred Schlert has decided that all public Masses in the Diocese of Allentown will be cancelled, effective immediately. The Bishop acknowledges the strong devotion you have to the Holy Eucharist, and has not made this decision lightly, but rather through prayerful discussion and in cooperation with public health officials. There are many options to "participate" in Masses on television and online. Check AD-Today.com for further information.

I will continue to offer a daily private Mass for the intentions of our parish family, those directly affected by the virus and those who care for them. Our church will remain open daily from Noon until 3:00 P.M. for private prayer and adoration before the Blessed Sacrament. The Sacrament of Reconciliation will still be available on Saturday afternoons from 4:30 P.M. until 5:00 P.M.

Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion are not permitted to bring Communion to the sick until further notice. Public Stations of the Cross are not permitted. However, I would encourage you to pray the Stations individually.

Weddings, Funerals and Baptisms are permitted. However, in the case of funerals, families are encouraged to wait until the threat of the virus has passed for a Memorial Mass. In the case of Baptisms, only the Baptism of one child at a time is permitted. In all three cases, attendance is limited to family members and no more than 50 people in attendance.

I encourage you to turn to our Patron St. Joseph, Protector of the Universal Church, asking for his protection. Pray the Rosary as a family, both for those affected by this pandemic and for all those who care for the ill at home, as first responders, and in hospitals and other institutions.

May God bless us,

(Rev.) Thomas R. Buckley  
Pastor