

ST. JOSEPH CATHOLIC CHURCH

1300 NORTH MAIN STREET, BLUFFTON, INDIANA 46714 | (260) 824-1380 | www.StJOSEPHCHURCHBLUFFTON.ORG | StJOSEPHCHURCH@ADAMSWELLS.COM

March 18, 2020
Memorial of St. Cyril of Jerusalem

Dear Friends,

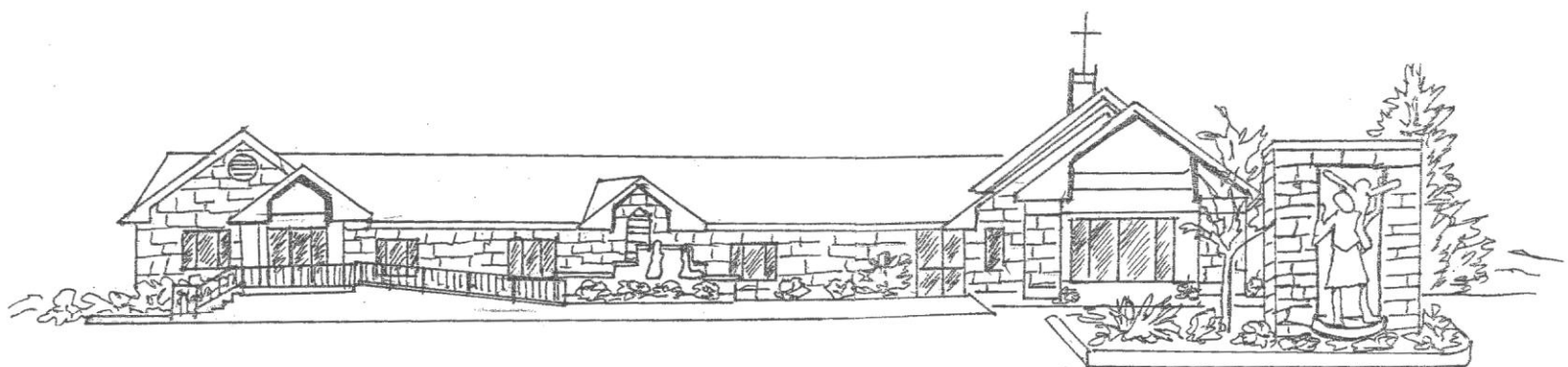
It is with a heavy heart that St. Joseph's in Bluffton, in accord with Bishop Rhoades' directives, will suspend the celebration of all public Masses and scheduled times of Adoration and Confession for the foreseeable future. Our other public parish gatherings (Lenten Soup Supper, Stations of the Cross, etc...) are cancelled. This was not a decision made lightly by Bishop, but one taken after much prayer and consultation with health officials to ensure the health and well-being of not only our parish and diocesan family, but our entire community.

What does this mean for St. Joseph's? According to Bishop's directives, St. Joseph's will remain open at all hours as a place for individual and private prayer. Though all public (scheduled) Masses are suspended, Fr. David will continue to offer a private celebration of Mass every day. Even when no one else is physically gathered for the Mass, we are united to the Church Suffering and the Church Triumphant throughout the Mass. Until we can gather together again in person for this Holy Sacrifice, you are invited to unite yourself each day to the Mass by making a spiritual communion. As Christians, we are called to love both God and neighbor. We are called to make this sacrifice, walking in the desert during this Lenten season, out of love for our neighbor. May this absence from our attendance at Mass make our hearts desire our Eucharistic Lord even more until we can receive Him again.

Starting on Thursday (March 19th), we will look into the possibility of live streaming daily Mass on both our Facebook page and Website. As scheduled Confession times are suspended, confessions are available by appointment. Please either call the Parish Office (824-1380) or email Fr. David (frdavidvioli@gmail.com) to set a time for Confession.

May our Lord, through the intercession of St. Joseph, defend us from all dangers.

Faithfully in Christ,
Fr. David



SPECIFIC INFORMATION FOR ST. JOSEPH

St. Joseph's will remain open at all hours to serve as a place for private prayer and adoration of our Blessed Lord in the tabernacle.

Masses: All public celebrations of Mass are suspended. (*Fr. David will continue to offer a private celebration of the Mass every day and invites you to join in by making a spiritual communion. If possible, these Masses will be live-streamed or recorded and shared via social media.*) The main aim at the suspension of public Masses throughout the Diocese is to protect public health and well-being by preventing the gathering of large crowds (as recommended by state health officials).

Confessions: If you would like to go to Confession, please make a request through the Parish Office (824-1380) or by emailing Fr. David at frdavidvioli@gmail.com. To preserve anonymity, if desired, no name need be left with the Parish Office.

Baptisms: If you have an infant in need of baptism, please call the Parish Office (824-1380) to make arrangements.

Sick Calls / Last Rites: If anyone is in danger of death or any danger, Fr. David will come to offer the Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick and, if needed, Last Rites. Please call the Parish Emergency Line – (260) 296-0511.

Parish Office: The Parish Office will remain open at normal hours for the foreseeable future, M-F: 9 AM – 4 PM (*but will be closed on Friday, March 19th*). The Parish Office can be reached by phone at 824-1380 or by email at stjosephchurch@adamswells.com.