

# ST. JOSEPH CATHOLIC CHURCH

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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](mailto: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

