

Saint Boniface Catholic Church

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Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Due to the increasing number of confirmed cases of COVID-19/coronavirus in Minnesota, Archbishop Bernard Hebda this week announced his decision to dispense all Catholics in the Archdiocese of Saint Paul and Minneapolis from their obligation to attend Sunday Mass, until further notice. This is a rare dispensation and a decision he said he did not take lightly. A copy of the Archbishop's letter is in the bulletin and on our parish website.

Despite the Sunday Mass dispensation, Archbishop Hebda provided some simple ways to stay spiritually connected to the Church and each other, like participating in a special fast this **Wednesday, March 18**, and other important ways to increase our spiritual devotion during Lent.

We are here to support your spiritual journey and continue delivering the latest updates during this challenging time. Here's how you can stay involved:

- Monitor our parish website and social media for prayer intentions, news and event updates.
- Watch the bulletin for cancellation notices of various group activities
- Contact event organizers for information
- Participate in electronic giving to support our ongoing ministries and operations.

Right now, the parish staff and leadership team are working together to determine the course of our large group gatherings. We are checking with vendors and local public health experts to make sure we have the best and latest information. We will prayerfully consider that information and together make prudent decisions, and communicate those decisions to you, our parish family.

After consultation, one of those decisions is to close the parish office for the next two weeks. We will still be available via phone and email during office hours, but ask that people do not come to the office building itself.

We thank you for your support and faithfulness to our parish community. We are confident that together, with God's help and guidance, we will make it through this time of uncertainty.

Sincerely,

Father Peter, Staff and Parish Leadership

"Serving Jesus Christ by serving others."