

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ:

Due to the current covid-19 pandemic crisis St. Patrick Parish is suspending all weekend public Masses effective immediately. We will revisit this decision in the future to determine when it might be safe to lift or modify this suspension.

Please know that this is one of the most difficult decisions I have had to make as your pastoral administrator, especially with its proximity to Christmas. However, after consulting with diocesan and parish leadership and local medical authorities, I do feel it is the right decision that enables us to do our best in protecting lives.

I have included at the end of this email recently published covid-19 data that reflects the seriousness of our current pandemic crisis.

We will continue our Facebook and YouTube live streaming / recording of our Sunday 9:00am Mass.

Please access each link as noted below:

- Facebook Live – Stream - www.facebook.com/stpatrickbisbee
- YouTube Recorded Video - Login to YouTube link: youtube.com/c/StPatrickBisbee

Weather permitting Holy Communion will be distributed after Sunday Mass from 9:45am – 10:00am in the west (old school) parking lot. The procedure will be the same as we used during phase I of the pandemic.

My dear friends, this suspension will not last forever. It is a great challenge to each us but one that we will overcome by keeping our trust and faith in Christ our Lord.

I have included below a prayer sent me from Fr. Joseph Saba. It is a beautiful prayer authored by Kerry Weber. Let us pray this prayer often as we seek an end to this terrible pandemic. Let us allow it to keep our gaze of Jesus who fills our lives with hope and promise.

Your Brother in Christ,
Deacon Tony Underwood

Covid-19 Data

- The change in rate of infection day-to-day in Arizona 90 days ago was .27%. As of today (11DEC20), it is 1.66%.
- While it changes from day to day, as of today **Arizona is the #1 state in the Nation** for the key measure of sharing the virus, that is, the average number of people who become infected by an infectious person.
- Less than 10% of ICU beds in the State of Arizona are available, which is approximately 170. There are no available ICU beds in Pima County hospitals and the sick around the state are now mostly being transferred to the few remaining available ICU beds in Phoenix.
- We have contracted 6,000 new cases per day for the last seven days.
- Yuma and **Cochise** Counties are facing the greatest increase have now met or exceeded the positivity rates of the Navajo Nation.

A Coronavirus Prayer
By Kerry Weber

Jesus Christ, Light of the World,
You understand what it is like to feel alone in the midst of great suffering.

Remain with us as we continue to endure the coronavirus pandemic.

Awaken our hearts as we bear witness to the sickness, the sacrifice, even death.

In these dark months we cry, "How long, O Lord?"

Help us to watch and pray for signs of your hope.

When we long for a world returned to normal, inspire us to work toward a world transformed.

When we feel forgotten and lonely, help us to find solidarity through your love.

When we cannot see your face, help us to see you in others, especially the essential workers, first responders and medical professionals who labor tirelessly.

When we feel only sorrow in our souls, help us to know that the joy of the Gospel remains as true now as ever.

When we feel only grief in our hearts, help us to find consolation in knowing that those who are sick or have died are held in your loving embrace.

As we walk through this time of darkness, give us faith that we are headed toward brighter days.

Give light to our eyes. Let us show that light to one another.

Even in winter, when the ground appears barren, it is warmed by the light of your creation; seeds are nourished and green shoots are pushing up toward the sun.

Jesus Christ, be our light.