



March 19, 2020
Solemnity of St. Joseph

Dear Blessed Sacrament Parishioners,

Beginning on Wednesday, March 18th, the Dioceses of Rapid City and Sioux Falls came to the joint decision that all gatherings in Catholic facilities, including all daily and Sunday Masses, be suspended until further notice. In accordance with this directive, all public liturgical, social, and educational activities will be suspended at Blessed Sacrament. We are being asked to give up some of what we love the most for the sake of the common good; nonetheless, the current events are calling us to increase our Lenten practices of prayer, fasting, and almsgiving.

In order to sustain the spiritual needs of our parish family during this extraordinary fast from the regular reception of the Eucharist, our staff is exploring different avenues of ministry. In a particular way, we encourage your family to continue to honor the Sabbath and participate in the sacrifice of Jesus Christ by viewing the Mass with the rest of your parish family. This Mass will be available online Sunday mornings at 9:00am at blessedsacramentchurch.org/mass-videos. The faithful are urged to make "Spiritual Communion" while joining in this broadcast of the Sunday Mass.

Following this Mass, the Eucharist will be exposed for Adoration from 10:00am-5:00pm in the main church. Your family is welcome to come pray before Christ, while observing the guidelines prescribed by the [CDC](https://www.cdc.gov). To sign up for one of these time slots, go to volunteersignup.org/YTAD3. Adoration will still be available on Thursdays from 8:00am-8:00pm. You can sign up for Thursday Adoration at volunteersignup.org/BDTD3. Likewise the Sacrament of Reconciliation will be celebrated at its regular times. Fr. Adam and I are available for individual appointments and to celebrate the Sacrament of Anointing.

Blessed Sacrament will remain open during regular hours, however, only the main doors near the Narthex will be unlocked. A table of prayer resources will be available to assist your family in living out your faith in your homes. Some of these resources will include: "Spiritual Communion" prayer cards, bottles of holy water, Stations of the Cross booklets, the readings for the upcoming Sunday, and the most recent bulletin. On our website we have compiled a list of online resources at blessedsacramentchurch.org/resources for individuals and families to continue to live liturgically during this time. We are also exploring options to continue offering our small-group studies and baptism preparation via virtual meetings.

Finally, we hope you will continue to tithe by mailing in your contribution or signing up for e-tithing at blessedsacramentcc.weshareonline.org. To echo the words of a parishioner who sent in their tithe, "I'm sure your expenses don't stop just because we can't come to church." Your almsgiving provides for the needs of our parish and staff during this challenging time.

We ask all of you to offer additional prayer, fasts, and almsgiving during this pandemic, and we encourage our parishioners to offer their sufferings for the sick, dying, and those working to minimize the

impact of COVID-19. During this Year of the Eucharist, may this time of fasting reinvigorate our zeal and love for our Lord.

St. Joseph, Protector of the Universal Church, pray for us.
Sincerely in Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Fr. Timothy S. Hoag". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Very Rev. Timothy S. Hoag
Pastor