



# St. Christopher Roman Catholic Church

Come...journey, follow and be inspired with us!

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Dear Family,

As I am sure that you are probably aware, our area has been designated as an Orange Zone due to the drastic rise in Covid 19 positive cases. This is very unfortunate and we must pray for all those who are ill and for all the healthcare workers who are assisting them in their treatment. The implication for our Mass attendance was laid out for us on Wednesday during the governor's press conference and confirmed by the Diocese of Buffalo (please see accompanying press release from the Diocese). We can no longer have more than 25 people in attendance at Mass. As you can imagine, that would be very difficult to control. In conjunction with our neighboring parishes and after consultation with the Diocese, we are making the difficult decision to stop public Masses for the duration of the time that we are designated as an Orange Zone. All weekend Masses will be prayed and livestreamed as per the usual schedule. We will be inviting the immediate family of the person for whom the Mass intention is being offered to join us at each weekend Mass. This will be in keeping with the 25 person limit.

Additional Notes:

- The church building will be open for private prayer each day.
- Advent resource books will be available on a table in the Narthex of the church building for people to pickup.
- Tuesday Eucharistic Adoration will continue as per usual.
- We will livestream the 9AM Mass on Thanksgiving Day.
- If the situation should arise, we will celebrate Funeral Masses with only immediate family in attendance.

This is a very difficult decision for me to make and I do not make it lightly. I spoke with a good priest friend of mine and he put it in perspective in this way. If we know a blizzard is coming that will produce a lot of snowfall, blowing snow and whiteout conditions, the Diocese will make the decision to close parishes for the weekend to keep everyone safe. It is not denying anyone's religious freedom, but is instead a prudent move to keep people safe at home so that they can be alive to gather together for Mass as soon as conditions improve. This virus is like an unseen blizzard. It swirls around causing dangerous conditions for people and we need to do what we can to keep people safe so that we can gather together again when conditions improve.

Let us all pray for a quick end to this pandemic.

Praised Be Jesus Christ...Now and Forever!!

Father Steve