



Saint John Vianney Church

Gladwyne, Pennsylvania

Church: 350 Conshohocken State Road
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Gladwyne, PA 19035

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March 25, 2020

Dear Parishioners and Friends,

During this difficult time with various restrictions in place, we are striving to help our parishioners with various assistances:

1 . Sacrament of Confession Available

First, we want to make the grace of the Sacrament of Penance available to our people. So, the Sacrament of Confession will be available on **Monday, March 30, 2020, from 2:00 - 3:00 PM at Church.**

We have put in place the following helpful procedure to ensure everyone's safety and in order to make the grace of the sacrament available to our people:

- Fr. Donovan will be sitting near the **handicap side entrance** of the Church. Parishioners can enter the parking lot like normal from Conshohocken State Road and form a line with their cars. The line will stop at the turn by the garage. Then, cars can advance forward one at a time for confession.
- When it is your turn for confession, drive forward along the side of the Church where Father waits at the side handicap entrance (traffic cones will keep a safe space between Father and the vehicle) and slightly roll down your window so that Father can hear you. After confession, roll your window back up and exit the parking lot as normal.

Please avail yourself of the great spiritual graces which this great Sacrament of Healing has to restore us and strengthen us in these difficult days!

2. Parish Emergency Food Program

We have launched a parish crisis food assistance program. We invite anyone in our parish who needs help to call us at the rectory at 610-642-0938. In particular, if you are elderly or at particular risk due to underlying medical issues and you are unable to get necessary groceries, please call the rectory. Our dedicated staff will obtain the needed food - shopping for you and bringing it to your door. We want everyone to stay safe and have all necessities during this crisis.

3. Need for Financial Support

We need your financial support! Our parish depends upon your Sunday contributions to pay employees' salaries and benefits as well as regular operating expenses. We have been without funding over the past two weeks and I suspect the current situation of restrictions may preclude us from gathering for several more Sundays. Please consider on-line giving. Please go to our website: www.sjvgladwyne.com/egiving.

You can make your weekly contribution or a one-time contribution; you can make your offering by credit card, debit card, or bank account number. It is a safe and professionally secured service now used by thousands of congregants in hundreds of Catholic churches. If you need assistance, call the rectory leave your name and telephone number and we will return your call with assistance. You and your support do make a difference!

Understandably, some parishioners might have difficulty accessing technology; another option would be to mail in your weekly envelopes directly to the parish office. The proper address is Saint John Vianney Parish Office, 1110 Vaughan Lane, Gladwyne, PA 19035. Your US letter carrier will pick up your mail from your own mailbox.

4. Update for Holy Week Liturgies (Palm Sunday, Holy Thursday, Good Friday, and Easter Sunday)

We have just learned from the Archdiocese that the suspension in place of prohibiting the celebration of public Masses and other sacred liturgies will remain in place up to and including Easter Sunday.

The Archdiocese of Philadelphia has made the following announcement as of March 24, 2020:

The public worship of Almighty God that takes place with the celebration of the Sacred Liturgy is the duty and privilege of the Church in all her members. The Coronavirus (COVID 19) challenges us to celebrate the Mysteries of Christ for the glory of the Father and our sanctification with reasonable limitations and in cooperation with directives from government and health officials to stem the spread of the virus. In light of these considerations, the following updates are now in effect:

- *The March 17, 2020 suspension of all public Masses in the Archdiocese of Philadelphia remains in force until further notice. This includes all Sunday and weekday Masses with the faithful.*
- *There will be no public celebrations of Palm Sunday and of the Sacred Paschal Triduum (Holy Thursday, Good Friday, Easter Sunday).*

Please be assured, however, that Mass continues to be celebrated privately at Saint John Vianney by our pastor. Likewise, the Sacred Triduum

Masses will be celebrated privately by Fr. Donovan with a few liturgical ministers.

We are currently working to make these liturgical celebrations available to our parishioners via internet streaming. More information forthcoming!

Let us continue to entrust ourselves to our Blessed Mother and our Patron Saint John Vianney for protection and support in these times!

Devotedly yours in Christ Jesus,
Rev. William G. Donovan, PhD