



ST. ELIZABETH CATHOLIC UNIVERSITY PARISH

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To the Parishioners of St. Elizabeth Catholic University Parish,

I am writing this letter after careful deliberation and consultation with Bishop Coerver and the members of the Presbyteral Council of the Diocese of Lubbock. As we begin to hear talk about the possible re-opening of parishes for worship in the sanctuaries I have come to the decision to continue providing live-streaming Masses with communion afterwards in the North Parking Lot of the parish as we have been doing since April 26 until further notice.

In a letter from Bishop Coerver to the priests of the Diocese dated May 15, 2020 he states, "I will support any Pastor who decides to offer only Masses outdoors or via livestreaming without a congregation due to concerns about restricting admission and/or disinfecting of churches."

Beginning on Sunday, May 24, 2020 the parish will have set up an FM transmitter so you will be able to listen to the Mass through your car radio. We will let you know on Sunday, the FM station to tune to be able to hear the livestreamed Mass simultaneously as we have the Mass in the chapel.

Bishop Coerver has given permission to begin daily Mass in the Church on Thursday, May 21. We will have daily Mass with a congregation in the Church. We will need to observe social distancing which means attendance will be limited in the Church. People attending are asked to be wearing masks throughout the entire service.

I would like to explain my decision to continue the livestreaming of Masses on Sundays.

At this time we are experiencing a financial short fall of almost \$9,000 to \$10,000 a week in parish collections every week. If the church is opened for worship there are several things that need to be kept in mind as well.

1. After each Mass and before the next Mass can begin the church and restrooms need to be cleaned and wiped down completely.
2. At this time we do not have the personnel needed to do such a massive clean up after each Mass whether it be the church or restrooms.
3. We are having a hard time getting cleaning materials in such large quantities. Please be aware that we DO have cleaning materials for regular daily cleanings, but having to clean BEFORE each Mass would be an expense that will quickly become an extreme cost.
4. The church is responsible for providing masks for people who do not have one and want to attend church. This is another added expense that can become very costly.
5. The church is also responsible for providing hand sanitizer for every person entering the church. Given the reality of how many people come to Masses on a weekend we would very quickly run out of hand sanitizer and not be able to find replacements in a meaningful timeline. Everything is taking a lot longer to get to their destinations these days. But even so most hand sanitizers are being sent to hospitals and health institutions these days.

I beg your understanding with this difficult decision I have had to make. I am also concerned about the safety of our parishioners and truly believe this is the best decision for our parish at this time.

As always I am available to you should you have a question about this decision. You are welcome to call me at 806-762-5225 or email me at Emiliano.zapata.op@gmail.com

May we continue to pray for all of our parishioners. We, the Dominicans, miss seeing you during this “new normal” of our lives.



fr. Emiliano Zapata, OP

Pastor