

My Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Bishop Parkes has just advised us that, in an effort to control the spread of the COVID-19 epidemic, public celebration of the Mass, has been cancelled until further notice. His letter and a video of the announcement can be found on the following website: <https://www.dosp.org/coronavirus/>

Therefore, Masses with the public will not be offered in any churches in the Diocese of St. Petersburg. It is also important to note that the Bishop has already issued a dispensation to all the faithful from the obligation to attend Sunday Mass.

Having said that, I have been in contact with the Chancellor of the Diocese to discuss different possibilities of how to best serve the people of God under these circumstances, while observing all safety measures in place from Federal and State authorities.

Therefore, while complying with Diocesan directives, I have decided to offer outdoor, "drive-in" Masses in "Our Lady's Garden." **Following our regular Mass schedule**, these will be simple Masses without music.

If anyone wants to come, it is with their own personal responsibility and discretion. Those who choose to attend these Masses are to remain in their cars at all times. The priests will celebrate Mass in the garden and will come to your cars to distribute Holy Communion.

These are trying times that we are experiencing. Even so, we need to keep our focus on the Lord as we need God in our lives more than ever. Let us support each other in our charity towards our neighbors.

Please be assured of my prayers for you and for your families. Let us all join together in the fight against this pandemic, with the help of God.

Yours in Christ,

Fr. Edison Bernavas I.C