

**ST. GABRIEL THE ARCHANGEL PARISH**  
**LAKE MILLS & JOHNSON CREEK**

Dear Parishioners,

At this critical time of the spread of Corona Virus throughout the world, I ask you all to take necessary precautions to stay safe. Bishop Donald Hying has sent an emergency letter to the Priests and to the Faithful of the Diocese of Madison. I would like to highlight some of the important points:

Dear Priests and Faithful of the Diocese of Madison,  
Lenten blessings and prayers to you in this time of challenge for our diocese, the state, the country and the entire world, in regards to COVID – 19, a strain of the Coronavirus.

- Effective tomorrow, Tuesday, March 17<sup>th</sup>, I am suspending the public celebration of Masses throughout the Diocese of Madison. This is effective through Friday, April 3<sup>rd</sup>. This includes both Sunday and weekday Masses at all parish churches. Priests will still celebrate Masses in private for the intentions of the people.
- This is a weighty and grave decision, and one I don't make lightly. However, taking precautionary measures is a prudent course of action given the civil directives and the underlying health concerns.
- I would ask that, where possible, our churches remain open for private prayer and that our people reserve some part of their day for private prayer or devotions, while always obeying the civil directives and following all prudent preventative measures as articulated by health authorities.
- I am planning to celebrate a Sunday Mass each week which will be live-streamed. More details on the time of that Mass will follow.

Lastly, let us hold up each other in prayer during this time of concern, asking Mary help of Christians to intercede on our behalf. None of this is easy, but we rely on the Lord and His help to heal, guide, and bless us during this challenging and difficult time.

Sincerely in Christ, Donald J. Hying (Bishop of Madison)