

Dear Friends:

I am truly sorry to have to inform you: the Diocese of Rockville Centre has determined that **we must cancel all Masses and liturgical events through Tuesday, April 14, effective immediately**. You read correctly: this includes the rest of Lent, through Holy Week, and Easter Sunday itself. As you may be aware, this comports with the policies of the Brooklyn Diocese and the Archdiocese of New York. Please know that it pains us as pastors to enact this course of action, but prudence demands that we keep people safe, particularly those who are more vulnerable to infection. Below, you can read the statement that came this afternoon from the Chancery with the directive, but I thought it best to give you the bottom line up front, lest there be any confusion. Please consult my other message about the availability of the Church throughout the week. I truly appreciate that our parishioners trust my judgment on that matter. Believe me: as soon as we can return to the normal schedule, we will do so, *enthusiastically*.

Please continue to check both the website and Constant Contact for updates. I will follow up with a more pastoral message very soon. In the meantime, be assured that I will continue to offer the Mass for our regular intentions, and that I am here at the rectory if anyone needs me.

God bless you all, my friends.

Faithfully,

Fr. Valentine