



10.30.2020

Statement regarding pastor diagnosed with COVID-19

Bishop Lawrence Persico and administrators of the Diocese of Erie learned last evening that Father Dan Hoffman, pastor of Our Lady of the Lake Parish in Edinboro, has tested positive for COVID-19. They are grateful his symptoms are mild.

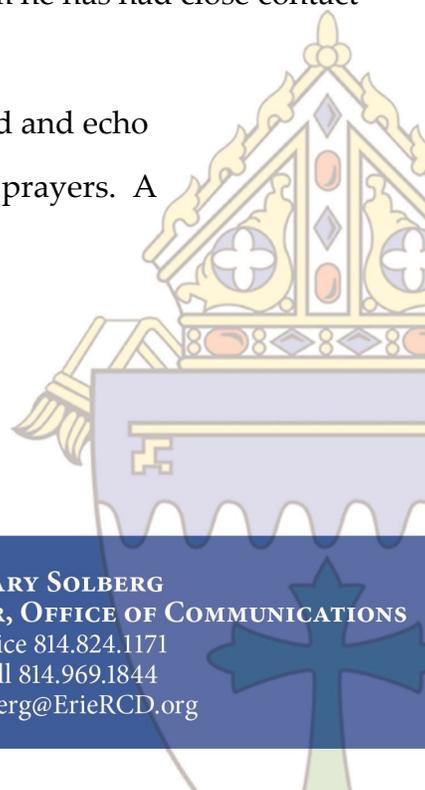
Father Hoffman will remain in quarantine for the recommended period of time. He offered details about his situation and the protocols that are being followed in a letter to parishioners issued today. Out of an abundance of caution, the parish will not have any public Masses this weekend and the church is being cleaned thoroughly.

Father Hoffman is personally reaching out to those with whom he has had close contact since last weekend.

We are confident appropriate protocols are being implemented and echo Father Hoffman's request that he and his parishioners be kept in our prayers. A copy of his letter follows on page 2.

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Dear family in Christ,

I am so sorry to tell you that last weekend I began to experience some symptoms and had myself tested for COVID-19 on Monday. I have been in isolation since Sunday afternoon as I was awaiting my test results. I received my results yesterday evening and unfortunately, the results came back positive. This means that I do have COVID-19 and have to isolate for at least the next 10 days. My symptoms are very mild, mostly limited to a loss of the sense of smell. I will be isolating here in the rectory.

After speaking with the bishop and diocesan officials, I am announcing that out of an abundance of caution, all the weekend Masses this weekend are cancelled (Sat., 4:30 pm and Sun., 8 am, 10:30 am, and 5:30 pm). This weekend, the church will be deep cleaned and made ready to have daily Masses resume beginning at 8 am again on Monday, Nov. 2, with a visiting priest, since I will still be in isolation.

I am in the process of speaking with everyone with whom I had close contact last week. I also would like you all to be attentive to how you are feeling. As you may be aware, Msgr. Swoger celebrated the 10:30 am and 5:30 pm Masses last Sunday, but if you were present at the Masses I celebrated, i.e., at the noon funeral Mass last Saturday, the 4:30 pm Mass and the banquet after, or the 8 am Mass on Sunday morning, please monitor your health. Common symptoms of COVID-19 include a fever of 100.4 degrees or greater, cough and/or shortness of breath. If you or any member of your family exhibit these symptoms, please contact your medical provider for further guidance. Please see the [CDC](#) and the [Pennsylvania Department of Health](#) for more information.

I will be keeping you all updated as I can. In the meantime, Our Lady of the Lake Parish will continue to follow all COVID-related safety procedures. Please keep me and our parish in your prayers. I can't wait to get back to full ministry as soon as I safely can.

Peace of Christ to you all!

Fr. Dan