**SUSPENDED UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE:  All Masses, Food Pantry, CFF, Bible Study, Dialogue & Reflection Group, Stations of the Cross, Easter Bunny Breakfast.**

IMPORTANT NEWS REGARDING COVID-19

Social distancing” sounds un-Christian, but we need to listen to medical experts. As with doctors, the first rule of a Christian at this time is “Do no harm.” That means not doing anything that might spread the virus to others.Therefore, we will NOT be celebrating the feast of St. Patrick on March 17th or the Feast of St. Joseph on March 19th, this year.
Also, On Thursday, March 12, 2020 Gov. Mike DeWine issued an executive order regarding the avoidance of large mass gatherings to help limit the spread of COVID-19 in Ohio.
Even though religious gatherings are expressly excluded in the order, the Catholic bishops of Ohio – out of concern for the common good and the physical as well as spiritual well-being of all of the people of Ohio – have agreed to cooperate with the governor’s direction to create “social distance.”

The [ODH](https://odh.ohio.gov/wps/portal/gov/odh/home) provides the following information outlining precautionary measures that people should take. These precautions are the same commonsense hygiene precautions recommended to prevent the flu, including:

* Avoid close contact with sick persons.
* Cover mouth/nose with tissue/sleeve when coughing/sneezing.
* Wash hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds, especially after coughing/sneezing.
* Avoid touching eyes, nose and mouth after touching objects.
* Practice good health habits (clean home, adequate sleep, healthy stress management).

Please pray for all who are suffering from illness or disease of any kind, and for an easing of the tension caused by this situation. May Our Lady of Lourdes, health of the sick and Mother of Mercy, intercede for us, and may the Holy Spirit continue to guide and protect us all.

For 146 years, St. Mary Parish has been a symbol of resilence to faith and to the City of Lorain. She has survived fires, a tornado and societal migration to the suburbs.

Founded in 1873 by a handful of German immigrants, St. Mary is the “Mother Church” of Lorain, giving birth to 12 other parishes of ethnic or territorial Catholic congregations.

Throughout the years, St. Mary has had a particular concern for the poor of the area, having established a neighborhood hot meal program on 8th Street (now managed by Catholic Charities), a monthly food pantry, a neighborhood garden, a winter coat/shoe giveaway and other social justice programs.

She continues to thrive due to the support and love of its parishioners, many of whom no longer live in the neighborhood of the Church.

Together we continue to “**be founded in faith; nurtured by hope and grow in love.**“