



Solar Eclipse, Monday April 8th Preparations & Precautions



As many of you know, there will be a Solar Eclipse unfolding Monday, April 8th between 1:53 and 4:25 pm with the total eclipse at 3:11 pm, causing nighttime darkness for nearly four minutes. We are one of 35 counties in Ohio considered ideal for viewing the eclipse. Please note appropriate glasses are necessary for safe viewing and available at local libraries.

State and local emergency officials are projecting 70,000 to 100,000 or more visitors in our local area with speculations about traffic gridlock and many people looking for parking (some with RV's), restroom facilities, other services, etc. Schools as well as numerous businesses are closed April 8th out of concern for safety on potentially congested roads. There is no need for panic, but wise to plan and prepare. Having a full tank of gas and provisions in advance are recommended. Our staff have sought input and advice from local emergency management personnel for how best to plan and prepare our church(es) and parish grounds.

Our hope is to help visitors see and experience the beauty of our Catholic churches and our faith, but at the same time we have a responsibility to ensure that our sacred spaces are protected and respected as well as being available for our Sunday worship. The following steps will be taken at St. Augustine and St. Joseph to assure the church and grounds are protected as well as providing parking for weekend Masses.

- St. Joseph parking lot will be blocked off to RV and overnight parking with barricades beginning Thursday, April 4th after the 8:00 AM Mass.
- The St. Augustine parking lot will be blocked off to RV and overnight parking with barricades beginning Friday evening April 5th .
- St. Augustine and St. Joseph parish buildings will also be locked by 4:30 PM on Friday, April 5th.
- The St. Augustine parking lot will be opened for Saturday, April 6th for confessions and Mass, then blocked off after 5:00 PM Mass. St. Augustine Church will also be locked after 5:00 PM Saturday Mass.
- Both St. Augustine and St. Joseph parking lots and churches will be opened for Sunday Mass Sunday, April 7th . Both parishes will be locked after Masses Sunday, April 7th.
- Monday, April 8th Communion Service and Adoration at St. Augustine are cancelled.
- St. Augustine Church will be open 8:00 AM until 12:00 PM Monday, April 8th with designated staff/ parishioners onsite to ensure safety and respect for the church.
- St. Augustine will be locked Monday, April 8th at 12 Noon.
- St. Augustine Cemetery will be blocked off to protect and respect the cemetery gravestones and grounds from Friday, April 5th thru Tuesday, April 9th.
- All Parish Offices will be closed Monday, April 8th.

Thank you in advance for your understanding and cooperation with our plans for
St. Augustine and St. Joseph parishes.