



Liturgical Directives Concerning COVID-19 and the Celebration of the Sacraments of the Church

In order to promote health and safety from disease related to the COVID-19, commonly known as the Corona Virus, and to comply with the directives of civil authorities tasked with public welfare, I issue the following directives regarding the celebration of the Sacraments of the Church that will be put into effect on Friday, March 20 and reviewed again in mid-April:

Directives:

- The public celebration of Mass is to be suspended indefinitely. This includes both weekday and Sunday Masses celebrated publicly.
 - o All priests are to continue the celebration of the Mass privately, either with one adult member of the faithful present, or alone in accordance with GIRM, no. 115 and Canon 906. The Sunday Mass is to be celebrated “Pro populo.” All other scheduled Mass intentions should be fulfilled whenever possible. Priest celebrants should arrange with the local pastoral leader to offer their Mass for the parish onsite or elsewhere.
 - o Masses may be livestreamed, in which case a musician, a cantor, someone to facilitate the “livestream,” a reader, and an adult server may participate.
- For grave reasons, Holy Communion may be administered to the faithful who ask for it at an opportune time, for grave reasons individually. Viaticum (Eucharist for the dying) is always to be administered wherever possible.
- Baptism may be celebrated with only immediate family and Godparents present.
- Anointing of the Sick may be celebrated to the sick individually with the immediate family or caregivers present. Every precaution should be executed to prevent the spread of disease.
- Confession should still be offered but with proper distance between the priest and the penitent. Penance services are to be suspended until further notice.
- Matrimony may be celebrated, but attendance should be limited only to immediate family.
- Funeral Masses and Wake Services may be celebrated, but should be limited to only immediate family members. Pastors may use discretion on other requests from families including others. Outdoor Committal Services can include friends and family, but regulations of social distancing should be adhered to.
- Confirmations are to be rescheduled; however, in imminent danger of death priests always have the faculty to confirm. We will be in contact about how to proceed at a later date.
- Public celebrations of the Liturgy of the Hours, Stations of the Cross, or other devotional gatherings are to be suspended until the public celebration of the Mass resumes.

- Public celebration of the Chrism Mass will not occur, but a later communication will inform priests concerning the procedure of acquiring the oils. Please retain and use the oils you currently have until you receive the newly blessed and consecrated oils.
- Holy Week and the Sacred Triduum may be celebrated with a musician, a cantor, someone to facilitate the “livestream,” a reader, and an adult server present. Additional details pertaining to the specific rites will be forthcoming.
- The Easter Vigil may be celebrated for the purposes of initiating catechumens and candidates, but only the catechumens, candidates, Godparents, sponsors, and immediate family may participate.

Additional Guidance

- Churches are encouraged to remain open for at least two to three hours daily and on the weekends, so that the faithful may pray privately before the Blessed Sacrament present in the tabernacle. These times should be regular and clearly communicated by the parish.
- The faithful are encouraged to participate in the opportunity of receiving spiritual communion which is facilitated by livestream celebrations of the Mass via Relevant Radio, TV Masses, the Compass, Social Media, etc.
- Parishes are encouraged to livestream their celebration of the liturgy, as well as to increase digital opportunities for the faithful to participate in adoration and communal devotions.
- Parishioners are encouraged to consider contributing to the parish by electronic giving if they do not already do so. They may also mail their weekly contributions. The Church will continue her ministries during this period of financial strain and please consider maintaining or increasing your level of contributions at this time.

If you have questions, please contact Shaun Johnson, Director of the Office of Divine Worship, at 920-272-8311, sjohnson@gbdioc.org.