

## Liturgical Directives Concerning CoVID-19 and the Celebration of the Sacraments

1. In a statement dated Monday, March 16, 2020, the public celebration of the Mass has been suspended effective Wednesday, March 18, 2020. This includes both weekday and Sunday Masses celebrated publicly.
  - a. Priests are asked to still celebrate the Mass privately, either with one adult member of the Faithful present, or alone in accordance with GIRM, no. 115 and Canon 906.
  - b. The Sunday Mass is to be celebrated “pro populo.” All other scheduled Mass intentions should be fulfilled whenever possible, and priests are encouraged to offer their Mass for the parish onsite.
  - c. Masses may be live-streamed. In these cases, a musician, cantor, reader, adult server, and someone to facilitate the live-stream may be present.
    - i. As a general reminder, individuals participating in any celebration of the Mass must wash their hands before and after liturgy. Likewise, they must use alcohol-based hand sanitizer before handling the Eucharistic elements and after any physical contact with another.
    - ii. A safe distance of 3-6 feet must be maintained at all times between individuals participating in the Mass.
2. Holy Communion may only be administered to the Faithful in the form of Viaticum, or other **grave reasons** only.
  - a. Holy Communion is not to be distributed in a “drive-thru” fashion.
  - b. Holy Communion is not to be available to be “picked up” from the parish to be brought home to family members or others.
  - c. Spiritual communion should be encouraged among the faithful.
3. Baptism may be celebrated with only immediate family members and Godparents present, keeping in mind the current guidance of the CDC and Health Department in regards to crowd size.
4. Anointing of the Sick may be celebrated with the individual who is sick and only immediate family members and/or their caregivers present. Every precaution should be taken to prevent the spread of disease.
5. Confession should still be offered but appropriate distance between priest and penitent must be maintained at all times.
  - a. Both priest and penitent are reminded of the importance of hand-washing before and after the celebration of the Sacrament.
  - b. Using the confessional screen between priest and penitent is another option.
6. Matrimony may be celebrated; however, attendance should be limited to only the immediate family while keeping in mind the current guidance of the CDC and Health Department in regards to crowd size.

7. Mass of Christian Burial and Vigils for the Deceased may be celebrated, but should be limited to only the immediate family while keeping in mind the current guidance of the CDC and Health Department in regards to crowd size.
  - a. Outdoor Committal Services can include friends and family, but appropriate social distancing must be followed.
  - b. *Any deaths as a result of this pandemic* are to be recorded in one place and a memorial Mass, from Masses for the Dead, “For Several Deceased Persons or For All the Dead” should be celebrated when the pandemic is over.
8. Confirmations are postponed through April 30. Someone from the Archdiocesan Offices will be in contact with each parish about rescheduling.
9. As always, the celebration of the Sacraments of Initiation in the case of imminent danger of death is permitted; pastors always have the faculty to confirm in these circumstances.
10. Public celebrations of the Liturgy of the Hours, Stations of the Cross, Quinceañeras, Rosaries, Penance Liturgies, and any other liturgical or devotional gatherings are to be suspended at this time. These gatherings may resume when the public celebration of Mass resumes.
11. At this time, Holy Week, Triduum and the celebration of the Easter Vigil, including the Sacraments of Initiation of Adults and Children over Catechetical Age are uncertain.  
**Additional directives will be issued soon.**