

Directives pursuant to Governor Pritzker's Shelter-in-Place Order

UPDATED: 21 March 2020, 5:00PM

These directives are intended to accompany the previously issued letter of Bishop Jenky.

All of these directives remain in effect until further notice.

They are in effect for the Diocese of Peoria and can be dispensed only for the gravest of reasons and by the Bishop or the Vicar General.

The celebration of Holy Mass

- Public celebration of Masses is suspended.
- Specifically, it is the Mass *coram populo* (in the presence of the people) that is suspended.
- Priests are *very much encouraged* to continue offering the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass.
- Instances of priests traveling to religious houses for Mass will be discontinued until the Governor's Order is lifted.

Funerals

- We will not be celebrating funerals during this period though we will bury the dead.
- It is permitted to perform the Rite of Committal outdoors – not in a chapel – at the graveside.
- At a mausoleum, the cleric and the faithful are all to remain outdoors and exercising proper social distancing.
- The suspension extends as well to the Funeral Liturgy Outside of Mass that is often done at the funeral home.
- Naturally, we encourage the celebration of a memorial Mass once the suspension is lifted.

Weddings

- All wedding celebrations – with or without a Mass – are suspended until the Governor's Order is lifted.

Baptisms

- All Baptisms are to be postponed until the Governor's Order is lifted. Exceptions will be made in the case of a true emergency. Contact the Vicar General for permission in this case.

Confirmation

- Contrary to an earlier communication, except for those who wish to be confirmed who are in danger of death, the celebration of the Sacrament of Confirmation is suspended.

Anointing of the Sick and Viaticum

- Priests, using the greatest prudence, may continue to administer the Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick and administer Viaticum to those who are dying.
- It is of greatest importance that priests be diligent about not contaminating their oil stock by reinserting their thumb without first thoroughly washing their hands.
- In the case of those who are known to have the Coronavirus, further directives should be sought from the Vicar General or the Episcopal Vicar for Healthcare.

Holy Communion to the Sick

- Except for those who are dying, the practice of bringing Holy Communion to the sick is suspended.
- The widespread practice of having Holy Communion brought to the sick by Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion is suspended until the Governor's Order is lifted.
- In the case of those who are known to have the Coronavirus, further directives should be sought from the Vicar General or the Episcopal Vicar for Healthcare.

Confession/Reconciliation

- Priests may continue to hear confessions of the dying.
- Further directives will be forthcoming regarding confessions.

Churches, Parish Offices, Parish Events, and Social Outreach

- During the time of the Governor's Order, churches and chapels are to be closed and locked.
- Parish events and activities of any kind are suspended.
- Parish offices are to remain closed. That stated, each Pastor and his staff must identify the essential functions that need to continue. It is our expectation that parish staff work from home and will not have any extended time whatsoever in the parish office.
- Decisions regarding social outreach programs will be made on a case-by-case basis. Contact the Vicar General for direction in specific cases.