



Clarifications on Decrees Cancelling Public Masses and Dispensing Catholics of Sunday Obligation

(March 19, 2020)

Some questions have arisen concerning other parish activities during the remainder of March. The following is offered for clarification.

Eucharistic Adoration: The church should be open during the day for visits to the Blessed Sacrament and/or periods of Eucharistic Adoration. The main church should be used for adoration rather than a small chapel to allow room for people to spread out.

Baptisms: These should be celebrated only with immediate family, with water blessed for the baptism and then disposed of properly immediately afterwards.

Confessions: These should continue as usual. If possible, move them out of the confined space of the confessional or reconciliation room in order to provide for the freer circulation of air. If this is done, the opportunity to confess anonymously must be maintained. At the discretion of the pastor the option to confess face to face can be suspended. Clear notice of this should be given as penitents approach the confessional. If possible, provide a chair without armrests to avoid having to wipe the chair down after every person. **Note:** Consider offering additional times for Confessions during some of the normally-scheduled times for weekday and Sunday masses.

Confirmations: These will be either 1) postponed; 2) delegated to the pastor to be done in smaller groups. They should be celebrated in the context of the Liturgy of the Word only. If you have a Confirmation scheduled in the next two months please contact Bishop Kelly's office, ttrujillo@cathdal.org, about rescheduling.

Funerals/Weddings/Quinceañeras: Attendance must be limited based on the instructions of civil officials (currently: gatherings of only 10 people or less).

Religious Education classes/Youth group gatherings: These are cancelled through the end of April.

Other parish activities: It is recommended that all other parish gatherings be cancelled.

Communion to the Sick: This should continue as usual according to need.

Anointing of the Sick: No change in this practice is warranted at this time. It is especially important to wash hands or use hand sanitizer before and after these visits. Consider anointing with a cotton ball or swab. If there is any evidence of the presence of the Coronavirus, see below.

Hospital Visits for Sacramental Ministry: Hospitals and other medical institutions have issued strict regulations concerning visitation of patients. In most instances, this is limited to two immediate family members. In the event of a request to visit a dying patient, contact the hospital Pastoral Care Department with the request and ask a chaplain to arrange the visit and to instruct you on the proper protocols. Depending on the circumstances, the family member might also contact the Pastoral Care department for you. The chaplain will likely accompany you to the patient's room and assure that the proper Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) is utilized both before and after the visit. Visits should be very brief, no more than 15 minutes.

Chaplain Contacts (this will be updated on a regular basis)

Children's Dallas	Ryan Campbell:	office 214-456-2824; cell 972-971-9647
Children's Legacy Plano	Witek Nowosiad:	office 469-303-2822; cell 972-977-7733
Baylor Scott & White	Deacon Hugo Salinas:	cell: 972-693-2785
UT Southwestern Medical Center	Fr. Joseph Nedumankuzhiyil:	office: 214-633-4080; cell: 845-553-4425
Methodist, Charlton Health System	Sister Maria Gomez:	cell: 214-770-5421
Parkland Health System	Fr. Alfred Asuncion:	cell: 469-500-8945
THR Health System (Presbyterian)	Deacon Gregg Kahrs*:	cell: 214-632-2211
*THR Deacon Kahrs also has connections with Medical City and other Collin County hospitals and can assist you there.		
Pastoral Services, Diocese of Dallas	Deacon Charlie Stump:	cell: 214-244-3611

Nursing Homes/Hospice Units: Contact the supervisor on duty with the request or have the family member make the contact and proceed as above.

Home Visits for Sacramental Ministry: In the event of home visits to provide sacramental ministry to the seriously ill and dying, it will be necessary to provide your own Personal Protective Equipment. Guidelines are still being developed and will be issued as soon as possible.

Note: Because of increased risk to people older than 60 and to those with underlying health conditions, priests visiting Coronavirus victims in hospitals and homes must be in good health and under the age of 60.

Updated information will be sent as circumstances warrant.

Bishop Greg Kelly, V.G.