



Liturgical Directives Concerning COVID-19 and the Celebration of the Sacraments of the Church Updated 3-24-2020

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 most recent directives of civil law 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 Tuesday, March 24 and reviewed again in mid-April:

Directives:

1. The public celebration of Mass is to continue to be suspended indefinitely. This includes both weekday and Sunday Masses celebrated publicly.
 - A. 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.
 - B. Masses may be livestreamed, in which case a musician, a cantor, someone to facilitate the “livestream,” a reader, and an adult server or deacon may participate.
2. For grave reasons **only**, Holy Communion may be administered individually to the faithful who ask for it at an opportune time. Viaticum (Eucharist **for those in danger of imminent death**) is always to be administered wherever possible. **This restriction is two-fold:**
 1. to prevent the transmission of disease through the physical distribution of the Eucharist.
 2. to prevent the separation of the Eucharist from the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass.
3. Baptism may be celebrated with only immediate family and Godparents present, **not to exceed the State restriction of 10 people total.**
4. Anointing of the Sick may be celebrated with the sick individually with the immediate family or caregivers present, **not to exceed the State restriction of 10 people total.** Every precaution should be **undertaken** to prevent the spread of disease. Priests have received further instruction from Fr. Luke Ferris.
5. Confession should still be offered but with proper distance between the priest and the penitent. Penance services are to be suspended until further notice.
6. Matrimony may be celebrated, **but is not to exceed the State restriction of 10 people total.**

7. Funeral Masses and Wake Services may be celebrated, **but are not to exceed the State restriction of 10 people total**. Outdoor Committal Services only can include friends and family, but regulations of social distancing should be **strictly** adhered to.
8. Confirmations are to be postponed until further notice. Further instructions will be forthcoming.
9. Parish churches can remain open for two to three hours a day if reasonable precautions to prevent the transmission of disease are maintained. The number present not to exceed the State restriction of 10 people total.
10. 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.
11. 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.
12. **The Sacred Triduum can only be celebrated in parish churches if livestreamed and thus will follow the same regulations issued in 1. B. of this document.**
 - A. Rites of Initiation of those who have participated in the RCIA Process are to be postponed to a later date. Priests who were to Confirm Catholics during the Easter Vigil are to wait until the Bishop has granted them these faculties at a later date.
 - B. The Liturgical Rubric for the celebration of Holy Week and the Sacred Triduum will be posted on the Diocesan website: <https://www.gbdioc.org/worship/office-of-divine-worship> .
 - C. The faithful are invited to virtually join Bishop Ricken for the celebration of The Sacred Triduum via livestream at: <https://sfxcathedralgb.com/73> .
13. **Palms for Palm Sunday are not to be distributed in order to prevent transmission of disease through distribution. They may be distributed when these directives are lifted.**

Additional Guidance

14. 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 **on signage and appropriate communications**.
15. The faithful are encouraged to avail themselves of the opportunity to receive a spiritual communion facilitated by Masses televised or livestreamed. Please encourage the faithful to join Bishop Ricken for the Sunday Mass which is televised on Chanel 5 at 10:30 on Sundays or join the celebrations of the Mass via Relevant Radio, TV Masses, the Compass, Social Media, etc.
16. Parishes are encouraged to livestream their celebration of the liturgy, as well as to increase digital opportunities for the faithful to participate in adoration communal devotions.

17. 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. 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.