

Memo



To: All priests, deacons, religious superiors, elementary and high school principals, chaplains, diocesan institutions

From: Most Reverend Roger J. Foys, D.D.
Bishop of Covington

Re: In response to Gov. Beshear's request to cancel worship services

Date: 11 March 2020

Dear Pastor/Pastoral Administrator:

All of us at the Diocese of Covington are very concerned about the health and safety of our parishioners and the broader community in light of the outbreak of COVID19 in the Commonwealth.

As you know, I have communicated with pastors and those who assist them about our liturgical practices, including options for the sign of peace, hygiene issues for those who serve at Mass, and the suspension of the distribution of Holy Communion from the chalice to the faithful and the reception of Holy Communion in open hands instead of on the tongue.

The Sunday celebration of the Eucharist is at the center of the life of the Church. Perhaps especially in difficult times, liturgical gatherings are a source of comfort and hope for the faithful, as well as an opportunity to offer our prayers to God for those who are suffering or who cannot be with us.

With the information I have now, I will not be calling for a diocesan-wide cancellation of daily or weekend Masses. I will be sending messages to you by the end of the day Friday about communicating the risks of large gatherings and how to mitigate those risks.

I ask you to encourage those who are ill or have symptoms to stay home as an act of Christian charity for their fellow parishioners. Individuals who are ill or have symptoms or those with underlying health conditions are not obligated to attend Sunday Mass. The Catechism of the Catholic Church #2181 allows for serious reasons such as illness.

I also am asking that you publicize viewing times for the recorded weekly Mass from the Cathedral Basilica of the Assumption, which is available through a variety of platforms.

It is important to note that this is a rapidly changing situation, and I will continue to provide updates. I will communicate with you by e-mail and ask that you monitor your e-mails in the days ahead.

Below are viewing times for the recorded weekly Mass from the Cathedral Basilica of the Assumption Sunday, 5–6 p.m.:

- Station MeTV WLWT;
- Antenna television, channel 5 or 2;
- Spectrum, channel 188 in Kentucky;
- Cincinnati Bell, channels 23 or 291.