

Information for the public:

While we continue to wait for a time when it is safe to resume publicly celebrated Masses, we are making preparations.

1. The diocese has developed a plan for the resumption of public weekday (Monday-Saturday morning) Masses. This plan has been distributed to all parishes so that they can prepare. Public weekday and Sunday Masses currently remain suspended. The diocese and parishes will communicate clearly when we deem it appropriate to resume public weekday Masses.
2. All diocesan parishes will most likely not resume public weekday Masses at the same time. This is due to various situations in our counties, and the fact that some parishes may not be able to meet all required safety guidelines at the same time.
3. Individual parishes will only be allowed to resume public weekday Masses when all required criteria are met. As a general summary, our plan consists of the following:
 - a. Social distancing must be maintained throughout the Mass.
 - b. The worship space must be thoroughly disinfected between every Mass, following the cleaning guidelines prepared by the diocese, which are based on CDC guidance.
 - c. Efforts are made to make the Mass as hygienic as possible, while respecting the integrity of the liturgy.
4. The diocese is tracking county specific data, to try to discern when it is prudent to resume public weekday Masses. We are being guided by the national guidelines for reopening, which direct us to watch for a 14 day decrease in positive COVID-19 tests, or a 14 day decrease in the percentage of positive COVID-19 tests.

It is everyone's earnest desire to resume public worship together as soon as prudentially possible. When public worship does resume, please remember:

1. Participating at Mass is a health risk for any individual. For those who do not attend Mass during this time God's infinite grace and mercy remain abundantly available.
2. The Sunday obligation remains suspended, and that the elderly, vulnerable individuals, individuals who live with vulnerable individuals, and those who are ill or have been exposed to someone with COVID-19 like symptoms should not attend Mass.
3. For those who will attend Mass, please cultivate an occasional presence, and not a daily presence. This is an act of charity toward others, as it can allow more people to participate in daily Mass and better serves the common good.
4. Only attend Mass at their own parish. Traveling to neighboring parishes creates a greater health risk for all, and hinders the diocese in its efforts to make the sacraments publicly available in the safest way possible.