



DIOCESE OF DALLAS

Office of the Bishop

DECREE

In light of the recent declaration of the State of Emergency concerning COVID-19 (Coronavirus) and the serious need for the shepherd to protect the well-being of the faithful and the community, in consultation with my brother priests and in accordance with the directives of public authorities which call for a limiting of public gatherings, I decree that:

- Effective immediately, all public Masses are temporarily suspended until March 30, 2020. Churches will remain open and private Masses will continue to be celebrated by priests of the Diocese, but no public Masses with the lay faithful will be held, so as to limit the spread of illness. Confessions will continue as scheduled. Please contact your pastors for information concerning other sacraments, such as Anointing of the Sick, which will also continue.
- Effective immediately, all Diocesan Catholic schools within the Diocese of Dallas will be closed until March 27, 2020.
- Effective immediately, all religious education classes are temporarily suspended until March 30, 2020.

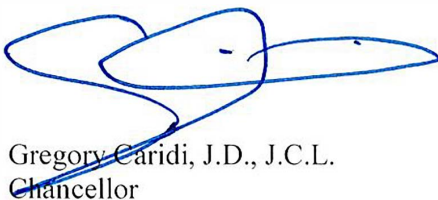
Please be assured that all employees will continue to be paid at all Diocesan entities during this time. The above will be re-assessed regularly, and I am hopeful that this emergency situation will be resolved swiftly.

Since the faithful will be unable to attend Mass within the Diocese of Dallas during this time, I encourage all to consider the following: devotion to prayer and reflection, Lenten meditations, reading scripture, praying the rosary, novenas and other Catholic devotions.

Additionally, it is always edifying to reflect on the Sunday Mass readings, which can be found at www.cathdal.org/readings, or view an online Mass such as those livestreamed from the Cathedral Shrine of the Virgin of Guadalupe at 9 a.m. in English and 10:30 a.m. in Spanish every Sunday. Visit www.youtube.com/dallascath to view the livestreams.

Please join me in prayer during this difficult time, knowing that the Lord will continue to guide and protect this Diocese.

Given this date the 13th of March 2020 in the Diocese of Dallas.



Gregory Caridi, J.D., J.C.L.
Chancellor



Most Reverend Edward J. Burns
Bishop of Dallas

