

## **BISHOP SCHARFENBERGER TEMPORARILY SUSPENDS OBLIGATION TO ATTEND SUNDAY MASS**

In light of the serious health risks to vulnerable populations due to the spread of the Coronavirus, Bishop Edward B. Scharfenberger has temporarily dispensed with the obligation to attend Mass on Sundays and Holy Days. Until further notice, Catholics should use their prudential judgment as to whether or not to attend Mass. Older adults, people with underlying medical conditions, and family members of such individuals should take special care in discerning the best course of action. At this time, Mass will continue to be offered publicly in most cases, contingent on emergency governmental restrictions regarding large gatherings.

“Be it ever so humble, home is the safest place to weather a storm. Until this current health crisis passes, the best thing we can do to take care of ourselves and one another is not to wander aimlessly, but to stick together with purpose. We can stay comfortable at home and we can comfort one another,” Bishop Scharfenberger wrote in a letter to the faithful.

For Catholics who cannot attend Mass in their areas due to restrictions or health issues, the diocese has put together a page of spiritual resources, including links to daily Scripture readings and televised Masses, for those who would like to pray along with the Mass at home. Visit [www.rcda.org/coronavirus/resources](http://www.rcda.org/coronavirus/resources).

In addition, the Diocese continues to provide updated guidelines related to preventing the spread of Coronavirus at liturgical celebrations, as well as links to national and statewide guidelines at [www.rcda.org/coronavirus](http://www.rcda.org/coronavirus).

**Giovanni Virgiglio, Jr.** | Diocesan Chancellor