



DIOCESE OF PATERSON

Diocesan Center
777 Valley Road
Clifton, New Jersey 07013

Office of
THE BISHOP

(973) 777-8818 Fax (973) 777-8976

Additional Health and Safety Measures By Mandate of the Bishop

As events and civil guidelines continue to unfold the following Health and Safety Measures are effective immediately.

Deferral of Baptism

Until further notice all baptisms administered by the ordinary minister of the sacrament within the parish setting are deferred except in case of urgent necessity. Should an urgent necessity arise, the faithful should contact a priest immediately.

Funeral Rites

Because of the impossibility of limiting large gatherings of family and friends for a Funeral Mass, all Funeral Masses are to be discontinued until further notice. The Rite of Committal as established in the *Order of Christian Funerals* may be used for a graveside service with no more than 8 members of the immediate family present. All are to keep the recommended social distance. The priest is to offer a private Mass for the repose of the soul of the departed. A public Memorial Mass can be arranged for a later date when restrictions on the gathering of large crowds have been lifted.

Derogation from Specific Previous Norms

The policies delineated above supersede and replace the norms regarding the celebration of Baptism and the observance of Funeral Rites in the decree issued on March 16, 2020 under my signature; all of the other norms of the March 16th decree remain in full effect with force of law.

Given this 19th day of March, 2020, the Solemnity of Saint Joseph, Spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary.

Most Reverend Arthur J. Serratelli, S.T.D., S.S.L., D.D.
Bishop of Paterson

Reverend Stephen T. Prisk
Ecclesiastical Notary