



Office of Archbishop Alexander Sample

April 6, 2020

My dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

Praised be Jesus Christ!

On March 16, 2020, I issued a decree suspending the celebration of public Masses throughout the Archdiocese until April 14, 2020. I did so with a very heavy heart, hoping that this state of affairs would only last a few weeks. It has become clear, however, that the impact of the COVID-19 virus is very far-reaching and will be with us for some time. On March 23, 2020, Oregon's Governor Brown issued an order mandating that state residents remain at home until further notice except for essential work and trips to obtain necessary supplies. On March 31, 2020, the President issued similar guidance for the entire month of April to slow the spread of the pandemic.

In order to be in accord with government directives and protect the people of the Archdiocese, I am therefore extending the suspension of all public Masses in the Archdiocese of Portland until further notice. I am likewise dispensing all of the faithful from the obligation to attend Mass on Sundays and Holy Days of Obligation until further notice. Priests will still be offering Sunday and daily Masses privately and I remind you of the many opportunities now available to participate in livestreamed liturgies at your parishes and at the Cathedral, especially during Holy Week. I will reinstate the public celebration of the Holy Mass at the soonest date possible, following the recommendations of public health and other civil officials.

We must continue to remember that the Holy Eucharist remains the source and summit of the Christian life and pray that this time of fasting from it will bring forth abundant fruit for the Church. May we look forward with greater eagerness to the joy of the resurrection and as always, remember those most afflicted by the present situation.

In the mystery of Christ's passion, death and resurrection,

Most Reverend Alexander K. Sample
Archdiocese of Portland in Oregon