



April 1, 2020

Dear Priests and Faithful of the Diocese of Madison,

Given that the “Safe at Home” order issued by Governor Tony Evers on March 25 will remain in place until 8 a.m. on Friday, April 24 unless superseded, the directives I set forth on March 16 will remain in place until at least April 24, at which time these measures will be reevaluated and decisions communicated.

To reiterate those things which remain in effect until at least April 24:

1. The dispensation from the obligation to attend Mass on Sundays and holy days of obligation remains in effect for everyone in the Diocese of Madison.
2. The public celebration of Mass remains suspended throughout the Diocese of Madison. This includes both Sunday and weekday Masses at all parish churches, oratories, and chapels.
3. I ask that priests still celebrate the Holy Mass in their parishes, but without an assembly (i.e., “privately”), including especially the “pro populo” (i.e., “for the people”) Masses of Sundays and holy days of obligation, as required by canon law.
4. I ask that, where possible, our churches remain open for private prayer and confessions and that our people reserve some part of their day for private prayer or devotions at home or at church, while always obeying the civil directives and following all prudent preventative measures as articulated by health authorities.
5. Recalling that Mass will still be offered regularly in every parish, albeit temporarily on a private basis due to health concerns, I invite everyone to join themselves spiritually to the Sacrifice of Christ in the Holy Mass which heals and saves us.

Know that you remain constantly in my prayers, and asking you to remember me in yours, I remain,

Yours in Christ,

Most Rev. Donald J. Hying
Bishop of Madison

O F F I C E O F T H E B I S H O P

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