



## Diocese of Madison

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Friday, April 10, 2020  
For Immediate Release

### Statement from Bishop Donald J. Hying

#### **Bishop maintains directive regarding suspension of public masses**

*“After reviewing Governor Evers’ statement regarding options for religious gatherings and services and seeking advice from our priests and diocesan staff, I am maintaining my directives regarding the suspension of celebration of public Mass with a congregation present in the Diocese of Madison. The Governor’s statement retains the requirement of social distancing, avoidance of person-to-person contact, and maintaining less than 10 people gathered in one space. Given these restrictions, the vagaries of weather, the technological complications of holding Mass outdoors, and the need to maintain proper reverence for the Eucharist, I do not see “parking lot Masses” as practical or possible at this time. These are hard decisions as we celebrate the most sacred Christian holy day; we all want our churches to be open, Mass to be celebrated, and the Eucharist available for our people. That day will come soon, we hope and pray. Until then, we are following the government’s directives in order to check the spread of the coronavirus and protect our elderly and vulnerable people. Our churches will remain open for prayer and adoration, our priests will still be available for confession and Masses will be live streamed. Thank you for your patience and understanding in these times of trial. Know of my daily prayers and spiritual closeness to all of you during this time.”*

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