

## Diocese of Austin

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Office of the Bishop

**MOST REVEREND JOE S. VASQUEZ**  
**Bishop of Austin**

**by the grace of God and the Apostolic See**

### DECREE

I, Most Reverend Joe S. Vásquez, Bishop of Austin, issued a decree on March 17, 2020, suspending public Masses in the Diocese of Austin until April 8, 2020; and, on April 3, 2020, I issued a second decree which extended the suspension of public Masses until April 30, 2020. After considering recent recommendations from public officials, health officials, and priests serving in this diocese, I hereby DECREE:

that public Masses within the Diocese of Austin are suspended through May 4, 2020, and that the dispensations granted under my decree dated April 3, 2020, are extended until May 4, 2020;

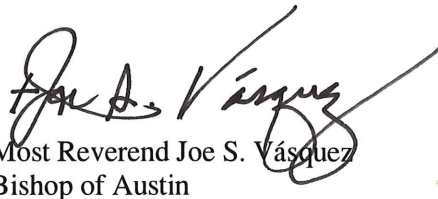
that effective May 5, 2020, parishes in the Diocese of Austin are to offer public Masses in compliance with the *Temporary COVID-19 Protocols for the Celebration of the Sacraments for the Diocese of Austin*;

that the Vicar General of the Diocese of Austin, Very Reverend James A. Misko, will publish, on my behalf, the *Temporary COVID-19 Protocols for the Celebration of the Sacraments for the Diocese of Austin*, communicate the protocols to the parishes in the Diocese of Austin, and promptly communicate any subsequent amendments to the protocols to the parishes;

that the following members of the faithful are dispensed from the obligation to attend Mass on Sundays and other holy days of obligation (canon 1247) during the time that the *Temporary COVID-19 Protocols for the Celebration of the Sacraments for the Diocese of Austin* remain in effect: (i) those who are sick; (ii) those who are 65 or older; (iii) those who have been advised by health care workers or caregivers to not attend Mass; (iv) those who sincerely believe that attending Mass will jeopardize their health or the health of a person with whom they reside; and (v) those who sincerely believe that because of the limitations imposed by the temporary protocols attending Mass is not reasonable; and

that those who are dispensed from the obligation to attend Mass on Sundays or other holy days of obligation are to make other acts of spiritual devotion such as a spiritual communion, viewing Mass by remote means, praying for the sick, reading scripture, or participating in devotionals such as praying the rosary.

Given this 30th day of April 2020 in the seat of the Diocese of Austin.

  
Most Reverend Joe S. Vásquez  
Bishop of Austin



Deacon Ron Walker  
Chancellor

