

NolaCatholic e-Bulletin

April 29, 2020

April 27, 2020, Update from Archbishop Aymond

The governor extended the “stay home” mandate until May 15, 2020.

Because “Church” is an essential part of our lives – effective immediately, public Mass can be celebrated but only 10 people may attend each Mass.

The following directives are to be implemented for each Mass.

1. The people of the Archdiocese are dispensed from the obligation to attend Sunday Mass.
2. If someone is vulnerable and not feeling well, they should not celebrate Mass in church with other people.
3. Attendance at Mass: The number of people who can gather in the church is not to exceed 10 people. This applies also to Baptisms, Weddings and funerals. This number will increase gradually.
4. For those who feel obliged to fulfill the Sunday obligation, a weekday Mass could accomplish this.
5. Additional Vigil Masses, Sunday and weekday Masses may be added to accommodate more people.
6. Either by computer, or by phone, people could make reservations to attend a specific Mass. More information on this soon.
7. An usher must make certain the 10-person rule is observed.
8. A specific Mass could be designated for the elderly who are in good health.
9. The church should be sanitized after each service.
10. Family members may sit in the same pew.
11. Social distancing must be observed – 6 feet apart. (This may necessitate roping off pews or putting markers for people to sit.) Six feet apart applies to the communion line as well.
12. Make sure all ministers observe proper hygiene of their hands.
13. Regarding the celebration of Mass:
 - a. Ministers and parishioners should wear a mask.
 - b. The priest/deacons should wear a mask at communion.
 - c. Give communion with no bodily contact. Gently let the host touch the person’s hand and drop it in their hand without touching them.
 - d. Communion on the tongue is not encouraged.
 - e. The chalice with the precious blood is not to be offered.
 - f. The sign of peace can be given by bowing to the other person.
 - g. As people depart from Mass, social distancing must be observed.

Thanks for your ministry and your patience with all of this! The number who may attend will increase gradually, but in the meantime, we want to cooperate so the virus does not spread. You may download a copy of this memo [here](#).

Mission Statement for the Departments and Offices of the Archdiocese of New Orleans

Impelled by God's call and inspired by the vision of the Ninth General Synod, the ministries of the Archdiocese of New Orleans, in union with the Archbishop and with one another, serve the people, parishes, schools and organizations of the archdiocese, enabling them to encounter Jesus and witness his love with joy.

Incardination

Fr. Edmund Akordor was incardinated into the Archdiocese of New Orleans on April 2, 2020. Welcome to the Presbyterate. You are our brother in Christ.

Death

We are sorry to inform you that Reverend Horace Louis Brignac, Jr., a retired priest of the Archdiocese of New Orleans, died on April 15, 2020. He was 85 years of age. Fr. Brignac retired in 2006, and was residing in Metairie until shortly before his death at Chateau de Notre Dame. Well done, good and faithful servant.

Mark Your Calendars

May 16, 2020	Transitional Diaconate Ordination
May 30, 2020	Priesthood Ordination
September 9, 2020	Confession available in all parishes 5:00 PM-6:30 PM
September 15-17, 2020	Priest Convocation for the Archdiocese of New Orleans
May 22, 2021	Transitional Diaconate Ordination
June 5, 2021	Priesthood Ordination
September 20-22, 2021	Louisiana Priests Convention
September 7-9, 2022	Priest Convocation for the Archdiocese of New Orleans
September 6-8, 2023	Priest Convocation for the Archdiocese of New Orleans

From the Building Office:

Sewerage & Water Board Backflow Prevention Program

The Sewerage & Water Board in Orleans Parish has reached out while our church and school facilities are mostly closed in regards to a new Backflow Prevention Program they have implemented. During this downtime we are all facing the S&WB is hoping to conduct preliminary surveys and advise everyone on how to bring their properties into compliance before they have to begin enforcing state-mandated regulations. Please see the S&WB PowerPoint Presentation [here](#) or visit <https://www.swbno.org/DrinkingWater/BackflowPreventionProgram>. Those wanting more information may contact the S&WB Plumbing Department at 504-585-2160 or Randi Jones, who is coordinating outreach for the program, at 504-930-7221 or 504-579-2193 or rjones2@swbno.org.

Mass Sign-Up Help

As Archbishop Aymond has allowed Mass to open for 10 people, many pastors may be seeking help in how to decide and create sign-ups for parishioners. Two main options are to use ParishSOFT forms or Sign-Up Genius. Fr. Andrew Gutierrez, Parochial Vicar at St. Catherine of Siena in Metairie, has prepared the following communication to assist parishes with this decision making process:

Brothers,

I have created two videos of how to create sign-ups for masses using Sign Up Genius or ParishSOFT Forms. Please know I'm available to answer any questions you may have through this process if you have some difficulties. My cell is 504-442-2118 and email is agutierrez@arch-no.org. Below you will find links to the videos I created as well as some quick points of Pros and Cons for the two different systems:

1. "Sign Up Genius Tutorial" Video: <https://youtu.be/rQ25ko3KEoE>

A. Pros

- i. Very easy to set up and edit
- ii. One link for all of your Masses displayed together which can be placed on your website

B. Cons

- i. You can place a maximum number of registrants but it is NOT hidden from the public
- ii. Parishioner Names are shown in the link after they sign up
- iii. Layout can be confusing/busy for some people

2. "ParishSoft Forms" Video: <https://youtu.be/3-gzJieqSqw>

A. Pros

- i. Clean Interface
- ii. You can place a maximum number of registrants but it is hidden from the public
- iii. The registrants are not public after their sign up
- iv. Adaptability for different kinds of forms as well as greater customization
- v. Able to copy each form meaning you do not have to create an entirely new form each time – just have to change the title of the form and get the specific link for your website

B. Cons

- i. Must already have ParishSOFT Giving to use the "Forms" application within their system
- ii. Tedious and long set up from creating the form, getting the link, then posting the link on your website under a "title"
- iii. One form per Mass which means you need one single page on your website that would have all the form-links listed in one place

Blessings, Fr. Andrew Gutierrez

Pastoral Care for Families of the Deceased During Covid: An Online Remembrance Service

What happens when the Covid-19 Coronavirus pandemic and social distancing prevents or delays funeral rituals meant to assist in the healing process? How do we attend to people's grief? Fr. David Caron, OP, Vicar of Evangelization and a Pope Francis appointed Missionary of Mercy proposes a virtual ritual to assist families and loved ones in one Corporal Work of Mercy until the official Church rituals can be held. Click [here](#) to download the full document.

Resources to Engage the Elect and Candidates During Covid

While all in the parish community are important, one group might need specific attention to keep them engaged during Covid-19 pandemic: the Elect, waiting for the Sacraments of Initiation, and the Candidates seeking full communion in the Church. Fr. David Caron, OP, Office of Evangelization and Deacon Michael Whitehouse, Office of Religious Education have gathered the following resources to assist in this ongoing engagement. Click [here](#) to download the full document.

From the Office of Worship: Liturgical Resources

Please note that the Holy See has authorized the celebration of the Votive Mass "In Time of Pandemic." This Mass can be celebrated, according to the rubrics given for Masses and Prayers for Various Needs and Occasions, on any day except Solemnities, the Sundays of Advent, Lent, and Easter, days within the Octave of Easter, All Souls' Day, Ash Wednesday and the days of Holy Week. The prayers and readings are available in both English and Spanish at on the Office of Worship COVID liturgical resource page: <https://nolacatholic.org/covid-liturgy>

Catholic Counseling Service

In compliance with the precautions regarding COVID-19, Catholic Counseling Service (CCS) continues to offer telehealth services to individuals, couples, and families through the phone or video-conferencing platforms. This new and effective method of counseling allows CCS to extend our services across the archdiocese to areas in which we were not previously available. Through the generosity of a donor, CCS has received a grant to increase the number of clients we can assist with the cost of counseling, including providing pro bono services when necessary. CCS offers counseling for \$50 a session and will continue to use a sliding scale to assist anyone looking for counseling. We are committed to removing finances as an obstacle to mental health services.

Anyone interested in counseling can speak to our intake coordinator by calling our main office at 504-861-6245. If we are unable to answer a call, please leave a message with your name and preferred contact phone number and someone will return your call within the next business day to complete the intake and schedule an appointment. All calls are completely confidential. We are proud to continue our mission of providing quality and affordable counseling to the Archdiocese of New Orleans.

For any inquiries on the NolaCatholic e-Bulletin, please contact Pastoral Planning and Ministries at planningandministries@archdiocese-no.org.