

***Bishop Jaime Soto sent the following instructions to priests and deacons on Friday, March 20, 2020:***

**Funerals and Grave Sites:**

- Presently, all vigils, funeral Masses, and receptions are suspended.
- With the Statewide order to “Stay at Home” I am now suspending gravesite committals. I have listened to the concerns of clergy and the cemetery administrators. Other cemeteries have already begun this measure. This measure will be effective, Monday, March 23, 2020. If you have any questions regarding pending arrangements contact the relevant Catholic Cemetery or Jerry Del Core, [jdelcore@scd.org](mailto:jdelcore@scd.org) , 916-733-0252.
- Catholic cemeteries and mortuaries will continue to serve families by picking up and preparing decedents. They have the ability to embalm and store full bodies until it is safe for us to resume services. It is expected the number of cremation requests will increase. Families may not want their loved one stored. If necessary, the Catholic mortuaries will be able to accommodate increased cremation requests.

**Weddings:**

- I am suspending the celebration of weddings. This is consistent with the existing suspension of all other liturgical gatherings. As with the instructions regarding gravesite committals, this will be effective on Monday, March 23, 2020. Please consult with Fr. Michael Vaughan, [mvaughan@scd.org](mailto:mvaughan@scd.org) , 916-733-0200, if there are special circumstances.