

Diocese of Lafayette-in-Indiana

Office of the Bishop
610 Lingle Ave., Lafayette, IN 47901-1740
PO Box 260, Lafayette, IN 47902-0260
(765) 742-0275 FAX: (765) 742-7513
bishopdoherty@dol-in.org

May 8, 2020

Dear Brother Priests,

The principal purpose of the attached pages is to help us with what we need for the reopening of our churches for Sunday Liturgies. My meditations and prayers are all about what – and Who -- anchors our vocations, our priesthood. But given your need for immediate and practical information, any *fervorino* at this point might appear self-indulgent. So on to the more technical aspects.

As I write, deanery meetings about these notes are already underway. I am grateful to Sandra Santucci and Fr. Joshua Bennett for the work they are doing with the deaneries. You will be separately notified about how to join in these preparations:

Carmel - 10am 5/8/20

Logansport - 2pm 5/11/20

Muncie - 10am 5/12/20

Fowler - 12pm EDT 5/12/20

Lafayette - 2pm 5/12/20

I have decided to lift the suspension on public liturgies beginning the weekend of May 30-31. We will adhere to public spacing both inside and outside our churches. In some places, because of civic lockdowns or lack of safety materials, the delay may be longer. Given the news today in the Journal & Courier about how Cass County shoppers flooded into White County which had to add restrictions, we have a lesson about how people travel, and how fast the “open” sign can switch to “closed.” We will have to be strict about most of the things you will see in these pages. Let’s see if we can execute basic plans first before imagining any elegant solutions.

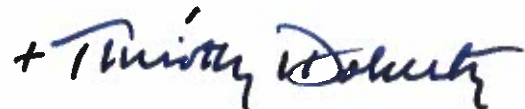
Masses will have to be spaced so that people can enter and leave without bumping into the next Mass attendees. And so the necessary cleaning can happen.

In the early weeks of the start-up, have a workable Mass schedule, but please do not promise people “additional Masses” (a relative term) in order to facilitate spacing. Why? Because we need to demonstrate our ability to run a simple schedule. Each added Mass will require a team of Extraordinary Ministers of Communion, ushers and cleaners, at the least. Unlike a one-weekend parish festival, we might have to do this for several months, and how many trained teams can one parish guarantee for such a long haul?

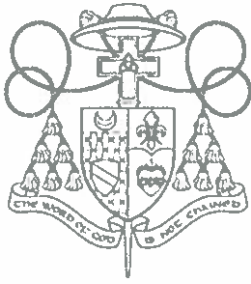
I know that there are voices that push you to ignore either diocesan or government regulations during these days. Be firm and tactful as you resist pressuring. I have personally responded to my share of written messages and phone calls, so I have a good sense of varying perspectives. We do not want to enable a resurgence of the contagion only to waste the great sacrifices of the past 6-8 weeks.

We can do a lot of evangelizing during these days if we use every question about schedules and spacing as a reason to name meeting Christ in God as the reason why we are concerned about any these things in the first place. We are making these efforts so that we and our people can experience the Lord in Word and Sacrament. These are things that livestreaming can only remind us about.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "+ Timothy Doherty". The signature is written in a cursive style with a cross at the beginning.

Most Reverend Timothy L. Doherty
Bishop of Lafayette-in-Indiana



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May 8, 2020

DECREE

On March 17, 2020, I discerned, after much consultation with leaders and members of our faith, medical and civic communities about the seriousness of the *coronavirus*, hereafter COVID-19, to dispense you, the faithful, of your obligation to attend Sunday Mass and Holy Days of Obligation and to suspend all public Masses until further notice. The fact that I would be the one to issue this decree suspending all public Masses, and being a part of history that will forever change our lives and world, is something I could never imagine in my lifetime.

My discernment considered the common good, our community of faith. COVID-19 was, and still is, a plague on our society that has the potential of creating havoc on the lives of those over the age of 65, and those who already in some way are vulnerable in health. Our faith family has risen to the occasion. You have shown great openness to the grace of God, charity toward one another, and obedience to the Lord Jesus by your willingness *to deny yourself, take up your cross and follow Jesus* (Mk.8:34) by suffering a prolonged fast from our Eucharistic Lord, the joy of attending Sunday Mass, and Christian fellowship. All of this was offered for the keeping of our Lord's greatest commandment, *love the Lord your God with all of your heart, with all of your soul, with all of your mind, and with all of your strength....you shall love your neighbor as yourself* (Mk.13: 30-31). In this way, we have been able to protect the common good, our faith family.

As we continue to hear from medical and civil authorities, COVID-19 continues to be a threat to the world at large. It seems very clear to me that we must be very prudent and vigilant as we move forward. That is evident in the way the *coronavirus* is present to varying degrees throughout the nearly 10,000 square miles and 24 counties that comprise the Diocese of Lafayette-in-Indiana as well as those counties which border us. Really, by the grace of God, by your willingness to "shelter in place", the expertise and sacrifice of our medical professionals, the progressive spread of COVID 19 has diminished.

On May 1, 2020, Governor Holcomb introduced a plan to "reopen" the state. As of May 4th, we are in Stage 2 of the "Back on Track Indiana" plan. The plan permits for Religious Congregations to ease back into indoor worship services, provided that we are attentive to health protocols outlined in the "Revised Guidance for Places of Worship". Therefore, as of Friday, the 8th day of May 2020, please know the following:

First, please know the dispensation from the obligation to attend Holy Mass on Sundays and Holy Days of Obligation offered on March 17 remains in effect until August 15. In particular,

those who are experiencing any sickness, those whose health is in some way compromised, those who are fearful of the possible infection of COVID-19, and those over the age of 65 should consider staying home.

Second, the suspension of the public Masses that began effective March 18 is lifted effective 4:00 p.m. on Saturday May 30, 2020 with adherence to the required instructions and restrictions that are in effect for our diocese as given by the Chancery.

Third, it should be clear that while I will allow for adjustment to Mass schedules and even the addition of some Masses where applicable, this is only foreseen as a temporary solution over the course of the next month or two. As a reminder, when we move into our new pastorate structure on August 19 many parishes will see a reduction in Masses.

Please find below Guidelines for Returning to Worship, specific to the Diocese of Lafayette-in-Indiana and which are subject to change.

Diocese of Lafayette-in-Indiana
Guidelines for Returning to Worship
Post COVID-19 Pandemic

Guiding Principles:

1. We will work to develop a strategic plan with guidelines and recommendations with different Phases of restrictions for the resumption of the celebration of public Masses, other sacraments, ministries, offices, schools, and campus buildings enables greater spiritual and pastoral care to be provided to the faithful during this difficult time.
2. We will rely on the medical and scientific community as our primary resource for information.
3. We will cooperate with civil authorities and apply recommendations appropriate for our diocese, particularly the State of Indiana's "5 Step Back on Track Indiana Plan" as introduced by Governor Eric Holcomb, by executive order 20-26, dated May 1, 2020.
4. We will pray and discern as we prepare overarching guidelines and recommendations.
5. We will work to develop safe protocols, procedures and provide resources for the safety of the Clergy and the laity.
6. We will safeguard our Roman Catholic identity.
7. We will maintain the integrity of our liturgical celebrations and sacraments.
8. We will collaborate to determine when returning to in-person Mass and sacraments is possible.
9. We will ensure the primacy of Sunday.
10. We will collaborate to determine when returning to in-person liturgical celebrations, sacraments and other parish related activities is possible.
11. We will collaborate to determine when returning to on-site work is safe.
12. We will, while continuing to protect the most vulnerable, slow and contain the spread of COVID-19.

General Guidelines:

1. The diocese will provide updates on the status of the dispensation of the obligation to attend Sunday Mass, when permission to hold public Masses will be given, and guidelines for celebrating the sacraments.
2. Each parish is to form a planning team with the purpose to establish best parish practices for each Phase of the returning to worship process.
3. Each parish is to establish cleaning teams or services with protocols to prepare for cleaning to occur in between liturgies and at each Phase of the returning to worship process.
 - a. Training this team is of utmost importance.
4. Each parish is to obtain necessary cleaning supplies and equipment including, but not limited to: Hand sanitizer, disinfectant, wipes, masks, gloves, etc.
 - a. Our diocese is collaborating with the Archdiocese of Indianapolis to obtain supplies. More information will be forth coming, as it becomes available.
5. At a minimum, each parish is to provide hand sanitizer and masks for the faithful and liturgical ministers, as outlined in the phases.
6. Disinfecting must be ongoing and well planned, in accordance with Federal, State and Local public health guidelines.
7. Each parish must clean high traffic areas such doorknobs, pews, counter tops, microphones, light switches, etc. frequently.
8. Each parish must clean restrooms between liturgies and at each Phase of the returning to worship process.
9. Each parish must remove all items from pews including, but not limited to hymnals, missals, pew cards, and pencils.
10. Liturgical ministers are to be trained for each Phase of the returning to worship process.
11. Each Phase of this process shall be adhered to throughout, unless specifically mentioned.
 - a. The Liturgical Directives of March 13 are also presumed and in force unless specifically addressed.
12. Prepare parishioners throughout each Phase of the returning to worship process with communication on updates and changes.
13. Parking lot Masses are not permitted.
14. Drive-in Masses or sacraments are not permitted.
15. Outdoor Masses may only occur with permission granted by the Vicar General.
 - a. Request for permission should include plan for logistics, safety, A/V equipment, social distancing, PPE and similar considerations.
16. Each parish must reorganize the budget to support allocation of additional cleaning, PPE and technology to assist ministries moving forward during social distancing or future outbreaks
17. Upcoming budget planning to include additional funds for continued acquisition of cleaning and PPE supplies. Technology to support flexibility of workplace and ministries.
 - a. Plan and budget for fall and winter needs now.
18. School and parish leaders are to stay in communication with local health departments, local schools, parishes, school districts and diocesan offices to create plans in the event that a COVID-19 outbreak occurs within community.
19. Human Resources and Catholic School resources will be disseminated as they are compiled and updated by diocesan offices.

20. Saint Joseph Retreat & Conference Center and the Maria Regina Mater “Poor Clare” Monastery will have individual plans specific to their situation.
21. The following Phases for Returning to Worship may be amended as more information and statistics become available.
 - a. Only Phase 1 and Phase 2 implementation dates have been set. Phase 3 and 4 are estimated timelines for planning purposes, but not approved implementation dates.
22. Per Canon 920 of Canon Law:
 - a. The “Easter Duty” precept of the Church is dispensed, by Law, to be fulfilled at another time during the year.
 - i. *“Can. 920 §1. After being initiated into the Most Holy Eucharist, each of the faithful is obliged to receive holy Communion at least once a year. §2. This precept must be fulfilled during the Easter season unless it is fulfilled for a just cause at another time during the year.”*

Phase A: (Effective March 18, 2020)

1. Dispensation from the obligation of the faithful to attend Sunday Mass.
2. Suspension of liturgies and sacraments.
3. Implementation of guidelines of COVID-19 statement from March 13, 2020.
4. Livestream liturgies in parishes with the capability and/or disseminate hyperlinks and prayer resources to the faithful to engage in the life of the Church during this time.
5. Online sacramental preparation and faith formation may occur.
6. Entire parish campus closed with buildings locked.
7. Parish offices closed.
8. Employees work remotely and when in office maintain social distancing and CDC recommendations for the workplace.
9. No in-person parish functions or activities.
10. No in-person school.
11. All nursing home and homebound visits by laity are to be suspended.

Phase B: (Effective May 30, 2020)

1. Those persons 65 and older and those with underlying medical conditions are urged not to attend any liturgies or sacraments at this time.
 - a. Any contact should be on an “as needed” individual basis at the discretion of the pastor.
2. Public Sunday Mass resumes with the following directives:
 - a. Masks are required for the assembly.
 - i. Masks are to be provided for parishioners at the door for those who do not have one.
 1. Masks and procedures shall be in place for those who are wearing inappropriate or inadequate masks:
 - a. E.G. – Scarves, Bandanas, masks with faces/skeletons, etc.
 - b. Clergy and liturgical ministers may not wear masks, gloves, or PPE items during liturgies.
 - c. One of the scheduled Sunday Masses shall be designated specifically for the vulnerable to protect them from unnecessary interaction with the healthier/non-vulnerable population if they insist on coming to Mass despite the general dispensation.
 - i. Saturday Vigil Mass is recommended to ensure deep cleaning before and after.
 - d. Additional Masses may be necessary for Lord’s Day Masses. If additional Mass times are added it must be made clear that this is only a temporary solution.
 - i. Mass times may need to be altered to ensure time for proper cleaning before the beginning of the next Mass.
 - ii. In larger parishes with multiple priests, Mass times that are staggered and in multiple locations on the parish campus may be necessary.
 1. If utilizing multiple locations, Masses must be led by a celebrant.
 2. Assembly may not participate in livestreaming liturgies onsite.
 - e. Social Distancing, as defined by the CDC and State of Indiana guidelines, shall be taken into account when designating seating arrangements where the faithful are

directed to sit as individually or as a family every three pews (approximately 6ft. apart) or one family per pew, etc.

- i. Ropes and tape may be used to mark off seating in pews.
- f. A fair, but equal, system assigning households to a particular Lord's Day Mass time may be helpful.
 - i. Prepare and manage expectations of parishioners.
 1. Mass will look different.
 2. Some parishioners may only end up receiving Communion once a month or less.
 3. Plans for the unexpected Mass goers.
- g. Volunteers placed at exterior doors or doorstops utilized, so no one has to touch the door to enter.
- h. A person or persons must be designated to monitor how many people have entered the space and the ability to stop people from entering, once the planned capacity has been achieved.
- i. Leave interior doors open to limit exposure.
- j. Cleaning between each liturgy must occur.
 - i. Special attention being given to the pew surfaces, door knobs/handles, and bathrooms.
 - ii. Consideration should also be taken for ventilation during the liturgy as well as after, to lessen the exposure to airborne droplets containing the COVID-19 virus.
- k. Liturgical ministers:
 - i. Shall limit the number of liturgical ministers to as few as possible.
 - ii. Servers and musicians are not permitted.
 - iii. Singing is suspended.
 - iv. Readers and other liturgical ministers are not to virtually perform their functions for any liturgy.
 - v. The use of one reader, seated near the ambo, yet appropriately social distanced from others may be engaged.
 - vi. Liturgical ministers should be encouraged to self-screen by taking temperature or may be encouraged to do so as they arrive to church.
- l. Entrance procession is limited to clergy, and simplified where applicable, to reduce exposure to the clergy in procession.
- m. If using the Book of the Gospels, it should be placed on the altar before Mass begins and sanitized after each Mass.
- n. Children's Liturgy of the Word and childcare services are prohibited.
- o. Hosts consecrated for distribution at the Mass should not be uncovered in the direct line of speaking of the celebrant, and the following guidelines shall be implemented:
 - i. A side corporal and/or covered ciboria shall be utilized.
 1. It is not necessary to uncover the hosts for distribution during the epiclesis or consecration. The hosts must remain in the celebrant's intention to consecrate.
 2. Hosts should be prepared in separate ciboria and not consecrated in a large ciboria and transferred, during Mass, to a smaller ciboria.

- ii. A separate ciboria, preferably covered, shall be utilized for any hosts consecrated for the sick and reserved in the tabernacle for this purpose.
- iii. Any remaining hosts after the distribution of communion, shall be reserved in the tabernacle, separate from the hosts reserved for the sick.
 - 1. It may be necessary to transfer the hosts to a properly cleaned ciboria before the next Mass.
- iv. These guidelines apply for all further phases, unless otherwise mentioned.
- p. Distribution of Holy Communion:
 - i. No distribution of Holy Communion to the faithful during Mass.
 - ii. Clergy are to receive Holy Communion during Mass utilizing a chalice per person.
 - iii. Distribution of Communion for the faithful, is to occur right after Mass.
- q. Livestreaming of Mass should conclude before the distribution of Holy Communion to the faithful present.
 - i. Communion stations and processions require intentional planning to account for social distancing and limited contact in the movement throughout the procession.
 - ii. When Mass has concluded, the faithful are invited to stay for the distribution of Communion and leave right after.
 - 1. The Clergy shall:
 - a. Remove Chasuble/Dalmatic
 - b. Wash/Sanitize hands prior to distribution
 - c. Utilize PPE per CDC guidelines, minimally using a mask or barrier (plexiglass stand)
 - d. Wash/Sanitize hands immediately after distribution.
 - e. Not wear gloves.
 - iii. When use of Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion is advisable they are to wear masks or barrier and follow similar hand washing/sanitizing procedures as the clergy, for the distribution of Holy Communion.
 - 1. EMHC's shall not wear gloves for the distribution of Holy Communion.
 - iv. Instructions are to be given to the assembly on receiving Communion and following the guidance of the ushers.
- r. Parishioners are encouraged to exit the Church building immediately after receiving Holy Communion – not returning to their pew – in order to maintain social distancing requirements between persons and for an orderly exit of the Church building.
- s. Ushers are to be trained to assist in social distancing and order throughout the distribution of Holy Communion.
 - i. Consecrated Hosts that are dropped during Holy Communion should not be consumed and must be dissolved in water to the point where the host no longer has the appearance of bread.
 - ii. This may require that the host be broken up in small pieces prior to placing it in water. It is necessary to wait for the host to be fully soaked in water, out of respect for what once contained the presence of Christ and in

order to avoid any danger or appearance of a host being discarded or profaned.

- iii. The liquid should be poured down the sacrarium (a special sink with a drain going directly into the ground, not the sewer). It should not be poured down a common sink. If such is not available, the liquid should be poured on the ground in a location that would not be walked over, such as behind a flower bed that is along a wall, at the foot of a statue or similar places.
3. RCIA Sacraments, First Communion, Confirmation, and Quinceañera, are not permitted.
 4. Weddings outside of Mass may occur.
 - a. Depending on the expected number of attendees, it may be necessary to limit participation.
 - b. These liturgies should not be “public” but limited to those necessary and pre-designated, adhering to social distancing and sanitizing procedures as outlined above.
 5. Funerals outside of Mass may occur with the following directives:
 - a. Guidelines and protocols from funeral directors are to be followed.
 - b. Depending on the expected number of attendees, it may be necessary to limit participation to immediate family, ordinary minister, and essential liturgical ministers.
 - c. These liturgies should not be “public” but limited to those necessary and pre-designated, adhering to social distancing and sanitizing procedures as outlined above.
 - d. Utilize bereavement ministries to support and provide outreach to the family of the deceased.
 - e. Meals could be dropped off through contactless drop off via a front porch, restaurant delivery services, and/or sealed and prepackaged food could be delivered, or gift cards for restaurants providing delivery could be useful.
 6. Baptism of Children Outside of Mass may occur with the following directives:
 - a. Depending on the expected number of attendees, it may be necessary to limit participation.
 - b. Baptism by immersion is suspended until further notice.
 - c. Clean water is required and items used such as baptismal fount, shells, pitchers, etc., are to be cleaned between baptisms.
 - d. The blessed water could be poured from a pitcher/cruet over the child’s head into a dry font/basin/large bowl and drained and cleaned afterwards.
 - e. Per of Introduction of The Order of Baptism of Children no. 24, In the Dioceses of the United States the following adaptations are allowed and could be omitted:
 - i. The anointing with Oil of the Catechumen may be omitted only when the minister of Baptism judges the omission to be pastorally necessary or desirable.
 - ii. The Ephphatha Rite takes place at the discretion of the celebrant.
 - b. The Sacred Chrism must be applied by the hand of the Priest/Deacon and may not be applied by a cotton ball or other intermediary.
 - f. A proxy can be utilized for a Godparent who is unable to attend or only able to attend via livestream.

- g. Only those physically present can be considered as present and those present having a liturgical role should be documented by name on the sacramental form.
 - h. Unless in danger of death, every effort should be made to schedule baptisms if and when they are allowed with the ordinary minister of the sacrament in the parish church.
 - i. If a child was baptized under the rubrics without anointing and the Order of Bringing a Baptized Child to the Church is completed at later date, the parish where it takes place should notify the parish that holds the baptismal record so that a notation can be made regarding these ceremonies, in the child's baptismal record.
7. Anointing of the Sick and Viaticum Outside of Mass may occur at the priests' discretion with the following guidelines:
- a. Consider creating a disposable paper copy of the Rite, to be disposed at the site of anointing
 - i. Suggestion: create PDF or printable version
 - b. Proper PPE shall be worn and in accordance with any particular requirements, e.g. hospitals or nursing homes.
 - i. Priests shall seek to anoint, as much as possible, outside of hospitals or nursing homes as their access to these facilities may be restricted partially or completely, per their institutional operational directives.
 - c. When anointing the sick, do not touch the person during the laying on of hands
 - d. Use a cotton swab to anoint the person on the forehead and disinfect your anointing kit and restock with fresh oil after every visit.
 - i. The cotton swab shall be disposed of in a dignified way, by either burial or burning.
 - e. The priest, himself, must apply the oil to the sick, not a proxy.
 - f. Per canon 999, in case of necessity, any priest, but only within the celebration of the sacrament may bless the oil of the sick.
 - i. See Pastoral Care of the Sick no. 123 for blessing of the oil.
8. Sacrament of Penance and Reconciliation may occur beginning June 6th with the following directives:
- a. General absolution is not being granted.
 - b. Distribute catechetical information on what to do if a person cannot attend the sacrament of reconciliation during this time.
 - c. Posted confession times are for those not requiring additional consultation.
 - i. Offer appointments for individuals who might require more time for direction.
 - d. Masks shall be worn by priests.
 - e. Face to face confession is highly discouraged, yet remains at the discretion of the priest.
 - f. Offer dates and times with hard ending times (e.g. 4:30 p.m.) for the sacrament as necessary.
 - i. Consideration for the number of penitents, as well as the safety of the priest should be balanced.
 - g. Plan logistics of where and how the lines for confession will form and move before and throughout the scheduled time.

- i. Including, but not limited to:
 - 1. Planning how people will flow in and out.
 - 2. Having people available to limit the numbers in the space, to ensure Social Distancing guidelines.
 - 3. Having people available to aid in monitoring and cleaning common spaces throughout.
 - 4. Removing confessional furniture to prevent contamination
 - a. i.e. requiring the penitent to stand in the confession space rather than sit or kneel.
 - 5. Posting prayers (e.g. Act of Contrition) or having photocopies for all penitents, rather than having a card or common prayer sheet at each confessional.
- h. Good ventilation should be in any space used for reconciliation.
- i. Consider using more open areas or larger rooms especially if the current reconciliation is smaller and more enclosed.
 - i. For example, the Church Nave, a Parish Hall or a Gym
 - 1. Outdoor confessions are discouraged.
 - 2. Privacy and eavesdropping considerations shall be taken into consideration and addressed.
 - a. For example, playing music in an open-air space and adequate distance between the queue and the confessional.
 - j. If there are multiple priests hearing confessions at the same time, consider using multiple spaces or buildings throughout the parish campus.
 - k. Penance services are not permitted.
- 9. Parish campus remains closed to the public except during scheduled liturgy and sacraments.
- 10. Parish offices and buildings remain closed. Necessary individual meetings and small working groups may meet.
- 11. Pastors should work with Jeanne Lausten, diocesan human resources to determine best work solutions for staff in reference to working from home, flex time and on campus. Offices remain closed to the public.

Phase C: (Anticipated Date- Mid-June)

- 1. Those persons 65 and older and those with underlying medical conditions are urged not to attend any liturgies or sacraments at this time.
 - a. Any contact should be on an “as needed” individual basis at the discretion of the pastor.
- 2. First Communion may occur with the following directives:
 - a. Offer more dates and times for the sacrament as necessary.
 - i. Shall not take place during a “regular Sunday Mass” unless there are 5 or fewer first communicants at that Mass.
 - b. Depending on the expected number of attendees, it may be necessary to limit participation to First Holy Communicants, parents and essential liturgical ministers.
 - c. Reception of the Precious Blood remains suspended for the laity.
- 3. Quinceañeras may occur with the following directives:

- a. Depending on the expected number of attendees, it may be necessary to limit participation.
- 4. Offices may open with limited hours to the public, individual meetings and small working groups may meet. As per phase B, employees work schedules are determined by pastors, his designee and diocesan human resources.
- 5. Sunday Mass
 - a. Masks are optional for both clergy and assembly.
 - b. Liturgical ministers may include servers, musicians, two readers.
 - c. The liturgical procession may include clergy and lay ministers with the procession for the Book of the Gospels.
 - d. Liturgical music may be used with social distancing considerations for the musicians and/or choir.
 - e. Worship aids may be distributed if they are discarded after each Mass or parishioners may print off worship aid and bring it from home.
 - f. Hymnals and other “pew items” shall remain removed from the Nave.
 - g. Electronic worship aid for use at Mass are not permitted (e.g., cell phones or other personal smart devices.)
 - h. Distribution of Holy Communion may occur during Mass if celebrant chooses not to wear mask.
 - i. If the celebrant chooses to continue wearing a mask for distribution of Holy Communion then Phase B protocols are to be followed.
 - i. Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion assisting in distribution are to follow same protocols as celebrant during distribution of Holy Communion.
 - j. If an EMHC is unwilling or unable to distribute without a mask during Mass, they shall not be scheduled.
- 6. Weddings and funerals within Mass are permitted.
- 7. The Sacrament of Reconciliation
 - a. The priest should maintain adequate social distancing and it is highly recommended to maintain the use of a screen.
 - b. Masks shall be worn by priests.
 - c. Open areas with good ventilation is highly recommended.
- 8. RCIA:
 - a. The sacraments of initiation for those entering the Church should be made a priority.
 - b. Depending on the expected number of people it may be necessary to limit participation.
 - c. In parishes with large numbers of Elect and candidates, pastors should consider celebrating Baptism, Confirmation and First Communion with the Elect on one Sunday and Confirmation with candidates on the next Sunday.
 - d. Scrutinies:
 - i. Per RCIA no. 20, the Bishop will dispense the Elect from participating in two of the three scrutinies.
 - ii. At the first available time hold one of the required scrutinies for those Elect who were not able to celebrate it on the 3rd Sunday of Lent.
 - iii. For the celebration of the scrutinies outside of Lent see RCIA no. 30.
 - e. Celebration of Sacraments of Initiation:

- i. Per RCIA nos. 375-399, in danger of death, the person should be initiated using “Christian Initiation of a Person in Danger of Death.”
 - ii. After celebrating the scrutiny and before the next Sunday (perhaps on that Saturday), celebrate the Presentation of the Creed and Our Father along with any final sacramental preparations.
 - iii. See RCIA nos. 148-149, & 185 for presentation and preparation rites.
 - f. At the scheduled time/date the Elect and candidates should receive the sacraments.
 - i. For the celebration of the sacraments of initiation outside of the usual times see RCIA nos. 26-27, & 208.
 - g. No baptisms by immersion.
 - h. In parishes with large numbers of Elect and candidates, pastors should consider celebrating Baptism, Confirmation and First Communion with the Elect on one Sunday and Confirmation with candidates on the next Sunday.
 - i. Per canons 883 & 885, priests who baptize a person of catechetical age or older, or receive someone into full Communion, have the right and obligation to confirm that person.
9. When buildings are not in use they are to remain closed and locked.

Phase D: (Anticipated Date, Early July)


1. Those persons 65 and older and those with underlying medical conditions may attend, but social distancing and other special considerations shall be planned to accommodate these individuals.
 - a. General Dispensation from the obligation of attending Sunday Mass is extended until August 15. Those who by virtue of age or illness are to be reminded they are always dispensed as long as their condition persists.
2. Baptisms within Mass may occur.
 - a. Water may only be used for baptism.
 - b. No holy water fonts or finger fonts are to be utilized.
3. Reconciliation
 - a. Masks are optional.
 - b. Work with deanery or nearby parishes to share sacramental load.
 - c. Penance services may occur.
4. Churches may return to their pre-COVID-19 open/closed hours.
5. Adoration may occur and adoration chapels opened.
 - a. A cleaning schedule and protocol shall be implemented.
 - i. For example: signage and having wipes or supplies for people to clean up after themselves, similar to gym and exercise equipment.
6. Confirmation may occur.
 - a. Bishop’s Office is to be notified of date and time of (re)scheduled confirmation.
 - b. Priests in parishes in which the Bishop is unable to attend the rescheduled confirmation, will be granted the faculty to confirm by the Bishop through the Vicar General upon request.
 - c. Parishes may need to offer more dates and times for the sacrament as necessary.
 - d. A proxy can be utilized for a sponsor who is unable to attend or only able to attend via livestream.

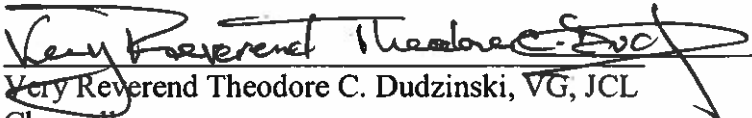
- e. At the pastor's discretion, the confirmands who are unable to complete a confirmation retreat before the rescheduled confirmation liturgy may be exempt from this requirement.
- 7. Daily Mass and Devotions are permitted.
 - a. Adherence to Social Distancing and Cleaning guidelines remains in force.
 - b. It may be necessary to have Daily Mass in the Nave of the Church rather than a day chapel.
- 8. Parish offices are open to the public and larger group meetings may occur.
- 9. Parish ministries in larger groups may resume such as retreats, receptions, funeral meals following local social distancing guidelines.
- 10. Vacation Bible School, summer camps, etc. are not permitted until schools are in session and protocols are established.
- 11. Parish festivals are to adhere to the local and state guidelines for mass gatherings.

Other Items of Consideration:

- 1. Visits to, hospitals, nursing homes and prisons, will require the cooperation and permission of these institutions and any additional distancing, PPE or disinfecting requirements, other than those already stated above, shall be adhered to according to the institution's policies.
- 2. Corpus Christi processions are not to be anticipated for 2020. A later date for a Eucharistic Procession may be permissible when more information and statistics become available.

Given at the Chancery of the Diocese of Lafayette-in-Indiana on this 8th day of May in the year of Our Lord, 2020 under the patronage of Saint Mary of the Immaculate Conception.


 Most Reverend Timothy L. Doherty, STL, PhD
 Bishop of Lafayette-in-Indiana


 Very Reverend Theodore C. Dudzinski, VG, JCL
 Chancellor

SEAL

Resources Links

- Diocesan Information
 - COVID-19 Updates
<https://dol-in.org/covid-19-updates>
 - COVID-19 March 13, 2020 Memo
https://dol-in.org/documents/2020/3/Coronavirus%20Memo%203_%2013March2020.pdf
 - Information on Perfect Act of Contrition
<https://us6.campaign-archive.com/?u=99d4544b3e1b56f9a5e8a54f8&id=afc4f6a17c>
- WHO Practical considerations and recommendations for religious leaders
<https://tinyurl.com/qulaqa3>
- CDC Coronavirus
 - Guidance for cleaning and disinfecting
https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/pdf/Reopening_America_Guidance.pdf
 - Guidance for reopening the workplace
<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/downloads/fs-reopening-america-workers-at-risk.pdf>
 - Guidance for schools
<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/specific-groups/guidance-for-schools.html>
 - Guidance for parents
<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/home/index.html>
- Indiana Health Department on the Coronavirus Updates
<https://www.in.gov/isdh/28470.htm>
- Indiana Back of Track Guidance for Places of Worship
https://backontrack.in.gov/files/BackOnTrack-IN_PlacesOfWorship.pdf
- Catholic Mutual COVID-19 Resources
<https://www.catholicmutual.org/en-us/home/covid-19caresresources.aspx>
- FDLC COVID-19
<https://fdlc.org/covid>
- Thomistic Institute COVID-19 Guidelines
<https://thomisticinstitute.org/covid-sacraments>
- For more information about cleaning supplies and equipment
- Don Siler- Sales, Covalent Clean, Indiana (ECOSafe & Covalent Clean)
Don.siler@outlook.com

<https://tinyurl.com/unpxrc9>
<https://www.wrist-band.com/ppe>
<https://tinyurl.com/ydafppkk>
<https://tinyurl.com/ybpc6dja>
- Information on Congregation Singing
<https://tinyurl.com/ya4fbbcy>