



Office of the Bishop

Roman Catholic Diocese of Lubbock

May 1, 2020

As we are all aware, the Governor of Texas is beginning a phased reopening of the state today. He and the state Attorney General have issued further guidance for houses of worship for this first phase of reopening. That guidance is requiring a lot of consultation within the diocese, especially a process of consultation with our priests.

At this time I believe we are not yet ready to celebrate public Masses inside our church buildings. I anticipate it will be several weeks before we are ready to celebrate Masses within our churches.

Today the USCCB sent bishops some very helpful guidance which our priests can use as we begin more public celebration of Sacraments. The information provided is based upon consultation with health and governmental experts.

In light of this new national guidance, there might be some modification of the manner of distributing Communion in parishes of the Diocese of Lubbock. I am sharing pertinent information regarding distribution of Communion— in our current situation— with the priests today. They might choose to make some changes in their respective parishes.

I entrust the matter to the Pastors and ask that all follow the instructions given in their parish.

The obligation to participate in Sunday Mass continues to be dispensed. Vulnerable persons are encouraged to stay home. Staying home continues to be the most effective defense against the virus.

Please pray for the Holy Spirit's guidance on civil and ecclesiastical authorities as we discern how best to move forward in the face of the pandemic. Pray also for those who are serving us, caring for the sick, and keeping our society going. On this Memorial of St. Joseph the Worker, let us also pray for those who find themselves unemployed at this time.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads '+ Robert M. Coerver'.

Most Rev. Robert M. Coerver
Bishop of Lubbock
May 1, 2020