



DIOCESE OF BOISE

## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

**How long will this suspension last?** For now, the suspension lasts up to and including April 5. We will continue to monitor the situation and revise these guidelines as necessary. Rest assured, *Masses will return to normal as soon as possible.*

**What about the celebrations of Holy Week?** Continue to plan the liturgies of Holy Week, including the Rites of Initiation at the Vigil, as usual. If it becomes necessary to suspend those liturgies as well, we will post further guidance regarding the celebration of those rites, whether that be non-public rites for those to be initiated (depending on numbers), or else a postponement of the rites until a later date, perhaps at Pentecost. All of this will depend on rapidly changing conditions. More guidance will be provided as we get closer to those dates.

**Do we continue to plan Confirmations?** For now, please continue to plan those liturgies. The retreat requirement for candidates for Confirmation is suspended for this year. If it becomes necessary to postpone or adapt Confirmation Masses, that information will be provided as soon as possible.

**How can we stay connected to our faith family?** All the faithful are encouraged to follow Masses that are live-streamed either at your parish or from soon-to-be-announced sites for the Diocese that will be posted on catholicidaho.org. In this way, we will stay in spiritual union with the Universal Church and maintain our participation in the cycle of readings and prayers for the solemnity and the season, as we pray for the sick and for each other. As far as possible, parishes should try to create online communities for prayer groups, Bible studies, and the like.

**How can we support the Church as this time?** First, pray for all of us as we confront this unprecedented challenge together. Also, remember that you can continue your weekly tithe online. Without our weekly Masses, there will be no collection, and many of our parishes will suffer extreme hardship without that income. Please remember your parish financially even as we are not able to come together. Many parishes already receive tithes online or through automatic withdrawal. Contact your parish for details. You can also

donate to your parish by going to the diocesan website at [catholicidaho.org](http://catholicidaho.org). You can make a one-time payment by selecting “Quick Give,” or “Create a New Account,” or log in if you have an account. Once in your account, select your parish from the drop-down menu.

**Will we still have confession?** General penance services are cancelled. Priests should, however, provide time in their schedules for parishioners to confess individually. When celebrated individually, proper social distancing should be observed as much as possible. This would seem to favor anonymous confession through the screen. For face-to-face confessions, priests are encouraged to hold confessions in an open space, to avoid close confinement and maintain the separation recommended by the Centers for Disease Control.

**What about the celebration of other liturgies such as funerals, weddings or quinceañeras?** For now, those sorts of liturgies should either be limited to immediate family members only, or, if possible, postponed until a later date. Public celebrations of the Liturgy of the Hours, Stations of the Cross, in-person Bible study groups (or other devotional gatherings) are suspended until the public celebration of Mass resumes. All parish meetings and gatherings of any type are cancelled.

**Will priests and deacons still be able to visit the sick?** During this time, clergy can still be available for pastoral emergencies, private meetings and anointing of sick. All of this is done to ensure we are slowing the spread of the coronavirus and protecting the vulnerable in our community, while also serving the needs of parishioners.

**Will parish offices remain open?** That will be left to the discretion of each pastor.

Check [idahocatholic.org](http://idahocatholic.org) for updates to this information.