



Our Lady of the Gulf Catholic Church

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March 17, 2020

Re: Summary Highlights of the March 17, 2020 Directives from Bishop Brendan Cahill

Dear Parishioners of Our Lady of the Gulf, St. Ann, St. Joseph, and St. Patrick,

Here is a summary of the most recent directives from our Bishop which is **effective immediately until March 31**:

1. All masses are canceled to the public. Be sure though, that Fr. Max and I will offer the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass at least once per day and that you are able to spiritually unite yourselves with us by making a spiritual communion. An example of a spiritual communion prayer is as follows:

My Jesus, I believe that you are present in the most Blessed Sacrament. I love You above all things and I desire to receive You into my soul. Since I cannot now receive You sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart. I embrace You as if You were already there, and unite myself wholly to You. Never permit me to be separated from You. Amen.

2. Bishop Cahill has dispensed all the faithful of the Diocese of Victoria in Texas from the obligation to attend Mass on Sundays until March 31.
3. Our Lady of the Gulf and its missions will remain open for private prayer and devotion.
4. All other normally scheduled sacramental, liturgical, and devotional services are canceled. (i.e. Confessions, Exposition and Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament, Stations of the Cross)
5. The Penance Service on March 31 is canceled.
6. **You may always call the church office to schedule a confession when needed.**
7. Please call the church for emergencies. Fr. Max and I are absolutely available for the Anointing of the Sick and for Last Rites.
8. All meetings on church property are canceled. Therefore, no CCD, no bible study, no prayer group, no RCIA, no church cleaning.
9. Please continue to support our parishes financially as monthly bills do not take a break even during these times. (You may mail them in or drop them off at the church office.)
10. The parish office will remain open for the time being Monday-Thursday, 8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.
11. **Lastly, pray. Pray to our Lord Jesus Christ through the intercession of Our Lady, the Health of the Sick, for a remedy to and deliverance from this disease. Ask for St. Joseph to protect us as he did the Holy Family. I encourage every family to pray together the Holy Rosary once a day. Make extra sacrifices to intercede for the Church and for the world.**

May God's mercy be upon us, as we place our trust in Him,

A handwritten signature in black ink. The word "Rev." is written in a cursive style on the left. To its right is a long, sweeping horizontal line that curves upwards and then downwards, ending in a small flourish.

Fr. Tommy Chen
Pastor