



## Diocese of Monterey

+Most Reverend Daniel E. Garcia

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March 17, 2020

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

After consultation with our presbyterate council and listening to our government and public health officials regarding the Coronavirus (COVID-19), effective today, **March 17, 2020 through April 12, 2020 (Easter Sunday)**, I am suspending the celebration of all public (Sunday and daily) masses in all counties of the Diocese of Monterey. We continue to monitor this crisis knowing that this timeline could be extended, if needed.

I make these changes for the sake not only of the health and safety of our parishioners, but for the sake of the common good of all society. Please keep in mind these changes are temporary and **I invite you to embrace this sacrifice of our treasured Eucharistic celebrations as a Lenten penitential sacrifice of the Catholic people for the sake of all**, in charity, to slow and eliminate this virus, as a threat to the life of all our people.

I will work with our Office of Communications to make available the Mass in a live-stream format on our Diocesan website. Besides praying the Eucharist “virtually (spiritual communion),” I invite you to pray with one another in your families, in ways meaningful to you, whether using Scripture, the Rosary, or spontaneous prayer.

I ask for your patience as we adapt to new developments. All of you are in my heart and daily prayer. Let us together pray for all who are suffering from COVID-19 and who may have died, as well as their families. Also, let us continually lift up all of our medical professionals, who work together to address this medical crisis. St Junípero Serra and Our Lady of Bethlehem, pray for us!

Your brother in Christ,

+Most Reverend Daniel E. Garcia  
Bishop of Monterey