

Reverend and dear Father,

Like many of you, I am watching the daily information provided by our local, state and federal leaders regarding the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. In the coming days, I expect some of the current stay-at-home restrictions to be eased in at least some of the counties that comprise the Diocese of Scranton.

Our Diocesan leadership team is working diligently to provide our parishioners and parishes with pertinent information and resources regarding “how” and “when” public Masses will be able to resume. Please understand, things will not immediately be able to return to normal. This will be a complicated process, involving new social distancing guidelines and liturgical changes.

Attached to this email are two resources that I ask you to share with the faithful of our Diocese. The first is a document, “Planning for the Future: What to Expect When Public Masses Resume.” Please use your traditional communication methods, including email, online bulletins and social media to help distribute this.

I have also recorded a video message that highlights many of these same points. The video is available at the following link:

<https://youtu.be/erwJaXvKLwo>

Additional information will be forthcoming very soon. I ask everyone to continue to be patient and charitable as we work together through these difficult times.

May God bless you and keep you safe.

Faithfully yours in Christ,

† *Joseph C. Bambera*

Most Reverend Joseph C. Bambera, D.D., J.C.L.

Bishop of Scranton