



# ARCHDIOCESE OF SANTA FE

The Catholic Center

**Archdiocese of Santa Fe  
Vicar General**

## MEMO

**To:** Priests of the Archdiocese of Santa Fe  
**From:** Vicar General  
**Date:** March 20, 2020  
**Re:** Reiteration of Suspension of Masses

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Rev. Fathers,

We have had several sporadic reports of priests celebrating Mass with congregations or open to the public despite earlier direction. A great deal of valuable time is unnecessarily lost as the deans and I investigate these reports.

To reiterate and reinforce previous instruction: During this time of suspension of Masses due to the coronavirus situation, and until further instruction is given by Archbishop Wester, ALL Masses are closed to ANY attendance other than to the celebrants/concelebrants. Priests are bound by their vow of obedience to follow this mandate—adherence being expected without contrivances to circumvent this directive.

As mentioned before, these restrictions are not taken lightly, but rather are enacted for the protection of life and health of clergy, the faithful and the general public against a very contagious and virulent disease spreading throughout the world.

Funerals, weddings and other rites should be postponed if at all possible. If not possible, then the rites without Mass are to be used and attendance limited to ten or fewer per the health and safety guidance given by civil authorities. Direction for upcoming Holy Week and Paschal liturgies is pending and will be promulgated soon.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Rev. Glenn Jones".

Very Reverend Glenn Jones  
Vicar General