



Diocese of Owensboro

McRaith Catholic Center

March 17, 2020

Memorandum

To: All Priests

From: Lauren Johnson, Office of Worship, 270-852-8366

Liturgical guidelines during the time of the coronavirus pandemic from the Office of Worship:

- Weddings should be postponed. If it is not possible to reschedule, weddings may be celebrated within the Mass. Participation/attendance will be limited to the presider, the engaged couple, the wedding party, and the immediate family of the engaged couple, adhering to the CDC and governmental guidelines/regulations, keeping in mind any limit concerning attendance numbers.
- Funerals may be celebrated within the Mass, or funeral liturgies outside Mass may be held in funeral homes or churches. Participation/attendance will be limited to the presider and the immediate family of the deceased, adhering to the CDC and governmental guidelines/regulations, keeping in mind any limit concerning attendance numbers.
- All baptisms of children will be one child at a time, celebrated outside of Mass. Participation/attendance will be limited to the presider, the godparents, and the immediate family of the child being baptized, adhering to the CDC and governmental guidelines/regulations, keeping in mind any limit concerning attendance numbers.
- Private confessions may still be held at the discretion of the pastor, given that it can be carried out safely and keeping in practice with social distancing.

- Communal penance services are suspended through Palm Sunday.
- Churches will remain open for prayer, but the faithful are urged to practice social distancing efforts to minimize their own and others' potential exposure. The Blessed Sacrament may be exposed for adoration at the discretion of the pastor.
- Mass intentions can and should be fulfilled at Masses without a congregation as much as possible.
- Palms may be blessed in a private Mass on Palm Sunday to be distributed at the next public celebration of the Mass.
- All parish events are cancelled without exception. These include—but are not limited to—religious education and RCIA classes, youth and young adult ministry events, meetings of parish committees and other ministries, parish fish fries (with the exception of drive-thru service), and other fundraisers.
- External events scheduled to be held in parish facilities (e.g. parish halls, school gymnasiums, etc.) should be evaluated on a case-by-case basis. Parishes should not commit to additional events until further notice. Any such events are to adhere to CDC and governmental guidelines/regulations, keeping in mind any limit concerning attendance numbers.