



Diocese of Belleville

RESOURCES

**(Please take the time to read these resources carefully
and make use of them in your ministry.)**

All of the Bishop's statements and directives concerning the pastoral response to the coronavirus are being posted on the banner of the Diocesan web site: www.diobelle.org

The Chancery and the Diocesan Pastoral Center remain open at this time with all personnel observing the protocol of small group meetings and social distancing.

Sacred Heart and Kendrick-Glennon seminaries have been closed. Our seminarians have either remained in the seminary or returned home.

The following are ways to help you and your parishioners to Keep Holy the Lord's Day:

Our Catholic priests and the faithful have a great love for the Eucharist. In times of persecution, they have risked their lives in order to participate in the celebration of the Eucharist. Some have abandoned their faith in such times. My temporary dispensation from the Sunday obligation is not comparable to abandoning faith under the pressure of persecution. We are doing this out of love and concern for our sisters and brothers who are vulnerable because of their age or underlying health conditions. We are inspired by the many Catholic doctors, nurses, and ministers who are generously putting themselves at risk at this time to serve others. One way of keeping holy the Lord's day is by supporting these selfless individuals with our prayers and encouragement.

- Pastors are encouraged to prepare their Sunday homilies and communicate them to the Faithful by email, Facebook or other means. Or, you could easily make your sermons available online on the great readings from the Gospel of John on the man born blind and the raising of Lazarus.
- The Faithful should be encouraged to download the Sunday readings and use them for family prayers and reflection so as to continue to keep Sunday as a Holy Day. Pastors are urged to use part of Sunday to call parishioners, offering words of encouragement to them and offering support in the face of their worries about the virus and financial instability, even praying with them when appropriate.
- The stress and uncertainty of this situation causes anxiety for all of us. Look for helpful, uplifting, and informative articles and send them to your people so they can become more knowledgeable and more hopeful. Encourage them to read Scripture, pray the rosary, pray meal prayers and morning and night prayers together with family members.
- Encourage Spiritual Communion with Jesus Christ using the prayer posed on the Diocesan website.

Watch a televised Celebration of the Eucharist together.

EWTN: <https://www.ewtn.com>

(common link to cable channels is: <https://www.ewtn.com/channel-finder>

Catholic TV: <https://www.catholictv.org>

Bishop Robert Barron, Word on Fire, posts a daily celebration of the Eucharist at 7:15AM.

It can be viewed at any time.

<https://www.wordonfire.org/daily-mass/>

- Encourage families to be creative in supporting the faith of their children while at home, e.g., teaching them new prayers, reading and talking about Bible stories. Pray over the readings of the day or the liturgy of the hours.

Daily Eucharist Scripture Readings and Prayers:

<http://www.usccb.org>

Magnificat:

<https://us.magnificat.net/free>

<https://latina/magnificat.net/gratis>

Liturgy of the Hours:

<https://universalis.com/index.htm>

<https://www.ibreviary.org/en>

<https://www.ebreviary.com>

<https://ebreviary.com/ebreviary/ebreviary.nsf/prayersforeveryone.html>

Instructions on How to Live-Stream Sunday Eucharist at your parish:

Using Google:

https://support.google.com/youtube/topic/9257891?gclid=Cj0KCCQjw6sHzBRCbARIsAF8FMpXCZolmDU6ilVb7UPEcMeIB8tWF6OIBOZH_R6uk1JYeJrwx7SW5ABYyaApMJEALw_wcB&gclid=aw.ds

Using Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/help/587160588142067>

If it is your custom to leave the church unlocked during the day, you should continue to do so and encourage private prayer and devotion, making sure that large numbers are not present at the same time.

RITE OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION OF ADULTS

Scrutinies: Since the first Scrutiny took place on the Third Sunday of Lent and because of the extraordinary circumstances that we are currently experiencing, I am dispensing the elect and their parishes from celebrating the other two scrutinies. Only a Bishop may dispense from the scrutinies.

Presentation of the Lord's Prayer and of the Creed: The presentations normally take place after the scrutinies during the period of purification and enlightenment. They are celebrated on a weekday with the elect, priest and small group (no more than 10). The Presentation of the Lord's Prayer is celebrated the Fifth Week of Lent. The Presentation/Recitation of the Creed is shared with the elect on Holy Saturday morning. Please adapt as necessary to fit your situation in these extraordinary times.

EUCCHARIST AT THE POOR CLARES MONASTERY: If there is a priest in good health who is available, the Eucharist may be celebrated for the Sisters ONLY. Regretfully, the Mass is closed to the public at this time.

Additional Information:

SYMPTOMS TO LOOK FOR IN PERSONS EXPOSED TO THE VIRUS:

Within 5 days of exposure, may exhibit a fever of 100.4 or higher (although some may exhibit NO fever and still have the virus), chills, a sore throat, a deep, dry cough.

Within 8-10 days of exposure, if shortness of breath occurs, hospitalization will be required.

A covered sneeze spans a distance of 6 feet in the direction of the sneeze.

An uncovered sneeze spans a distance of 8 feet in all directions.

The latest update indicates that young people MAY NOT be as immune to the virus as previously thought. More and more cases of infected youths have been reported.

For more information go to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

<https://www.cdc.gov/>

Additional Resources

“I am a scientist working to stop coronavirus...We should cancel all Masses.” AMERICA
<https://www.americamagazine.org/faith/2020/03/13/i-am-scientist-working-stop-coronavirus-we-should-cancel-all-masses>

“Flattening the Coronavirus Curve: Chart explaining why slowing the spread of the infection is nearly as important as stopping it. Siobhan Roberts, The New York Times, March 13, 2020.
<https://www.nytimes.com/2020/03/11/science/coronavirus-curve-mitigation-infection.html>

“What If Public Masses are Cancelled?” by Dr. Timothy O’Malley, McGrath Institute for Church Life, University of Notre Dame. <https://mcgrathblog.nd.edu/what-if-public-masses-are-cancelled>