



Office of the Bishop

TEMPORARY GUIDELINES FOR THE CELEBRATION OF THE SUNDAY EUCHARIST IN THE DIOCESE OF SAN DIEGO

In order to promote the health and safety of the people of San Diego and Imperial Counties during the spread of COVID-19, the diocese is implementing the following temporary changes in our liturgical life effective March 15, 2020:

1. Bishop McElroy has dispensed all members of the diocese from the obligation to attend Sunday Mass. It is especially important that individuals who are feeling ill should not attend Mass.
2. The Sunday Mass in parishes of the diocese should be adapted as follows to shorten the Eucharist:
 - A. Music should be limited to those moments that will not lengthen the Mass
 - B. The General Intercessions are to be omitted. A single prayer for those in need of healing will be offered instead. (See Attachment)
 - C. The Second Reading will be omitted, and the shorter version of the Gospel will be used.
 - D. Homilies will be limited to five minutes
 - E. The exchange of Peace shall be entirely omitted
 - F. The distribution of the Precious Blood to the faithful will cease.
 - G. Reception of the Eucharist on the tongue is to be discouraged for the common good of all.

Finally, the diocese is cancelling all major diocesan liturgical and social gatherings and all parish Lenten Reconciliation Services until further notice.