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## LITURGICAL ACCOMODATIONS DURING THE SUSPENSION OF THE PUBLIC CELEBRATION OF MASS DUE TO COVID-19 HEALTH THREAT (Updated: March 16, 2020)

The current public health emergency has brought about fears and anxiety in the hearts and minds of many people. However, it has also unified us as a people seeking the good for the other. In these trying times, faith is to be lived with reason, prudence, and wise judgment.

**Therefore, in order to help priests perform their ministry with faith, prudence, and wise judgment, the Archbishop in consultation with the Auxiliary Bishops and the Council of Priests have established the following liturgical accommodations. These accommodations are to be followed until further notice.**

### MASS

- The public celebration of Mass has been suspended in the Archdiocese of Los Angeles effective March 17, 2020 until March 29, 2020, or otherwise extended. Churches may remain open for individual, private prayer observing their normal open/closure hours.
- Parishes are invited to inform their parishioners of opportunities to view the Mass via livestream. The weekday and Sunday Mass will be livestreamed from the Cathedral of Our Lady of the Angles via the LA Catholics Facebook page ([facebook.com/lacatholics](https://facebook.com/lacatholics)). For more information on additional Mass broadcasts on TV and radio, visit [lacatholics.org/emergency](https://lacatholics.org/emergency).
- Priests are reminded to encourage the faithful to keep the Lord's Day holy. Some ways to do this include: reading the Gospels, praying with your families, and to joining yourself to the sacrifice of the Mass by making an act of spiritual communion.

### RECONCILIATION/CONFESSION

- Parishes are asked to cancel all Lenten penance services. However, priests are asked to continue offering the Sacrament of Reconciliation according to the parish's regularly established reconciliation times.
- Consider offering confessions in spaces other than small confessionals. Please observe good spacing between the penitent and priest, while at the same time observing privacy for the penitent. Those waiting for the priest are asked to observe "social distancing."

## **ANOINTING OF THE SICK**

- Priests are to attend to the needs of those who ask for the Anointing of the Sick. If a priest is sick or considered to be a high-risk individual (e.g. elderly, suffers from respiratory conditions, immunocompromised, etc.), he should request assistance from another priest.
- Priests attending to the needs of the sick are to observe all proper sanitary protocols and, if necessary, check-in with proper medical personnel before entering the room of the patient.
- For the time being, sick calls and distribution of Holy Communion for the homebound are reserved to priests only.
- Priests are asked to clean and refresh their oil stocks before visiting the sick.

## **BAPTISM**

- Unless an emergency, the celebration of the Sacrament of Baptism is to be postponed.

## **WEDDINGS**

- Weddings are limited to celebration of the Marriage Rite itself and must be limited to a total of 10 people, including ministers.
- It is recommended that pastors notify couples who have already scheduled weddings.

## **FUNERALS**

- Funerals may take place only in the form of “The Rite of Committal with Final Commendation” (also known as the “graveside”). If desired by the family, a memorial Mass can be scheduled appropriately at a later date.
- It is recommended that pastors notify family members who have already scheduled funeral Masses.

## **CONFIRMATIONS**

- All Confirmations from now until Easter Sunday are postponed. The Office of the Confirming Prelate will contact parishes with Confirmations scheduled during the affected dates. Rescheduling will be handled at a later time.

## **HOLY WEEK**

- An announcement regarding the parish celebrations for Holy Week will be issued on or before Friday, March 27, 2020.