

The Diocese of Duluth is continuing to monitor the rapidly evolving Coronavirus (Covid-19) pandemic and its effect on our region and our local church.

Below are major steps the Duluth Diocese has taken, recommendations that have been given, and resources for further information:

Steps taken

- All public Masses are suspended.
- The obligation to attend Sunday Mass is lifted until the crisis passes.
- Priests may say a private Mass without a congregation present, remembering their people at Mass.
- Mass can be followed on television, radio, and online.
- Sundays are to be observed as the Lord's Day through devotional practices such as an hour of silent prayer, the rosary and other devotions.
- Priests should see to it that churches remain open for an extended period of time each day so that those who wish may come and pray before the Lord in the tabernacle.
- The Sacrament of Penance should be offered at regular times.
- Priests are asked to place Stations of the Cross booklets in the churches and other devotionals for the private use of the faithful.
- Priests are asked to keep their parish offices open according to a schedule so that priests and people can stay connected.
- Gatherings of more than ten (10) people are cancelled.
- Pastoral Center staff have been encouraged to work from home when possible. Thank you for your patience as we respond to emails and voicemails.
- The Catholic schools of the Diocese of Duluth, as with the local public schools, closed March 18 in accord with the March 15 decision by the State of Minnesota to close K-12 schools. Teachers will be working to prepare lessons to continue meeting the educational needs of their students.
- Priests and the Faithful are asked to fulfill the requirements of the Corporal Works of Mercy during this time, as best they can.
- The sick are to be cared for with visits, Holy Communion, Anointing of the Sick, and Viaticum.
- Funerals are to be private (only family and close friends).
- There are to be no funeral receptions.

Concerning Holy Week liturgies:

- The Chrism Mass will take place as scheduled, but with only necessary ministers present.
- Priests should celebrate the Liturgies of Holy Week privately without a congregation.
- Priests should take special care to keep their churches open for an extended period of time on Good Friday.
- Baptisms, receptions into the Church and confirmations set for the vigil should be postponed to a later date.
- Should the measures continue, parish celebrations of First Communion and confirmation should be postponed to a later date.

Guidance

- If you feel ill, stay at home.
- If you are 60 or older, or have an underlying medical condition, stay home.
- Wash your hands frequently (recommended 20 seconds).
- When with others, practice social distancing (recommended 6 ft between people).
- Stay informed using the resources below.
- Pray for each other and for all affected.

Resources

- [USCCB Resources for Prayer and Engagement during Coronavirus.](#)
- [Act of Spiritual Communion](#) (to be prayed especially if you cannot receive Communion)
- [Loyola Press Sunday Connection](#)
- EWTN broadcasts Sunday Mass at 7 am and 11 am
- WDIO-TV/WIRT-TV broadcasts Sunday Mass at 9:30 a.m.
- [Real Presence Radio](#)
- [Mass on EWTN](#)
- [How to pray the rosary](#)

- [Minnesota Department of Health COVID-19 Info](#)
- [Centers for Disease Control COVID-19 Info](#)
- [Statement concerning additional measures to stem Covid-19](#)