



Diocese of Rockford

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MARCH 16, 2020

TO ALL PASTORS, DEACONS AND PARISHIONERS:

As the Diocese of Rockford continually monitors guidance and directives from local, state and national health agencies to help mitigate the spread of the coronavirus in our diocesan communities and in the greater United States, we wish to inform you of additional measures being taken by the Diocese of Rockford to curtail crowds and social contact.

In addition to the directive to postpone or reschedule all non-essential, non-sacramental gatherings until further notice, the Diocese of Rockford has issued the following new directives:

- No funeral visitations or luncheons in parishes or parish halls. Funeral Masses will continue to be celebrated with the presence of family only not to exceed 50 people and social distancing must be practiced until further notice.
- All confirmations will be postponed to a later date beginning Wednesday, March 18, 2020.
- All communal penance services are to be cancelled until further notice.
- Wedding Masses will be celebrated with no more than 50 family members present and no receptions to be held in the parish or parish halls and social distancing must be practiced until further notice.
- Quinceañera Masses will be celebrated with no more than 50 people present and no receptions to be held in the parish or parish halls and social distancing must be practiced until further notice.
- Be Reconciled Day, April 1, for the Diocese of Rockford is cancelled. Pastors are asked to continue normal current confession times at the parish and to make sure all social distancing is practiced. Confession times can be added so as not to exceed gatherings of 50 or more people.

As the information about the coronavirus and measures being taken to prevent its spread continually evolves, additional actions may be taken and new directives may be issued.

Our mission is to care for the souls of those within our diocese and to the best of our ability safeguard the expression of our faith and our communion with Jesus Christ our Lord through the celebration of the Eucharist. Our continued thanks to all the faithful for your patience and understanding as we face this difficult time together.

Issued by the Chancery, Diocese of Rockford