

March 20, 2020

Frequently asked questions

Are there Masses being held within the Diocese of Venice?

No. Bishop Frank J. Dewane, in a letter to the faithful of the Diocese of Venice dated March 18, announced the suspension of Mass beginning Friday, March 20 until at least Easter. This decision will be reevaluated at that time.

Why were they suspended?

In his letter to the faithful, Bishop Dewane made his decision based on federal guidelines limiting the size of public gatherings. Therefore, out of pastoral concern for all, and after prayer and discernment, as well as hearing from the priests and the Faithful he announced the suspension of Masses and other Liturgical events from March 20 until at least Easter.

How can I see the Mass?

On the Diocese of Venice website is a link to the daily and Sunday Mass. Several Parishes are also livestreaming daily and Sunday Masses. In addition, the Diocese produces a Televised Mass which airs each Sunday on the CW at 9:30 a.m. in the Northern Deanery (Manatee, Sarasota, DeSoto, Charlotte, Hardee, Highlands counties) and on Fox 4 at 10:30 a.m. in the Southern Deanery (Charlotte, Lee, Collier, Glades, Hendry counties), Check your local listing for the channel.

How can I stay connected to the Catholic Faith?

The Diocese website has developed links to numerous online resources, including the daily readings, prayers and videos including the Stations of the Cross, Praying the Rosary and the Chaplet of Divine Mercy and more. Also, check your local Parish website for resources, latest bulletin and messages and updates from the Pastor/Administrator.

Can I still pray my Parish churches?

No. All visits to parish churches are suspended through at least Easter.

My prayer group meets in the Parish Hall, can they still meet?

No. All Parish activities, including meetings, prayer groups, Religious Education and all other activities have been suspended.

Are Parish food pantries still open?

Food pantries that have been identified by the Diocese to remain open will do so. Please contact your local food pantry for details.

Is the Diocese/Parish open?

Unless otherwise directed by local, state or national officials, the Diocese and Parish Offices are remaining open with limited operations and calls will be answered. If visiting, everyone is to observe precautions regarding safe distances between parish staff and visitors. The faithful are encouraged to call ahead before visiting.

I am having surgery; will a priest visit me for the Anointing of the Sick?

Anointing of the Sick during this time is for the dying only and all priests will be following the respective medical facilities protocols to ensure the health and safety of all.

Can I go to Confession?

Regular confession times and communal penance services are suspended for the same period as public Masses. However, please contact your Parish to learn if/when confession times might be offered. Please be patient with your Parish Priests as health and safety of the priests and the penitent must always remain paramount while preserving the sanctity of the Sacrament.

Is the Church still doing funerals?

Yes. Funeral services are limited to immediate family only. Please contact your Parish for details.

My daughter just had a baby, can she be Baptized?

Baptisms are being postponed while the Mass is suspended, but they will not be denied. Exceptions will be made in the case of an emergency.

I'm getting married, is it going to happen?

If the wedding cannot be postponed to a later date, contact your Parish for updated policies regarding the limits on the size of the gathering. For weddings schedule later than Easter, please contact your Parish.

Are the Catholic Schools open?

Catholic Schools have suspended in-person instruction until at least April 15 and online learning will be provided to students on March 31.

I have a child in religious education, are the classes still going on?

Religious education classes are suspended during the same period as the schools. Directors of Religious Education will be reaching out to parents and individuals regarding finding online materials.