



Roman Catholic Diocese of Saskatoon
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March 31, 2020
Tuesday of the 5th Week of Lent

**Celebrating HOLY WEEK & the EASTER TRIDUUM
during COVID-19**

**To the Catholic Clergy, Religious, & Faithful of the Diocese of
Saskatoon:**

I am contacting you further to the directives to respond to the COVID-19 health crisis, and the celebration of Holy Week and the Easter Triduum in our diocese. The spread of the virus in our province and around the world continues to be a matter of grave concern for all of us. As the spread of the virus in Saskatchewan increases, we continue to respond to the strong directives and advice from our federal and provincial health authorities.

In my letter of March 17, 2020 I informed you about the suspension of public Masses until further notice. I also granted to all the Catholic faithful dispensation from the Sunday obligation. (cf. Code of Canon Law, 87). Today I confirm the extension of this suspension indefinitely until the time when the Chief Medical Authority indicates that it is safe to publicly gather.

Holy Week and the Easter Triduum is upon us, and I join with all of you in looking forward to celebrating these key liturgical events in the life of our faith. The sacramental life of the Church continues and is a sign of great hope in our world today. Thus, I announce the following regarding the events of Holy Week and the Easter Triduum:

1) Chrism Mass


Postponed until the Fall, at which time we hope the pandemic will be over, and we will be able to gather.

2) Holy Thursday April 9

- a. **Mass for the Clergy at 10 a.m.** I will video stream a Mass and am inviting all Clergy to join through the video link at our website.
- b. **Mass at 7 p.m.**

3) Good Friday April 10

- a. **Service of the PASSION of Our Lord at 3:00 p.m.**
- b. **Stations of the Cross at 7 p.m.**

 In all things we are *rooted in Christ*,
in His desire to bring God's love to all peoples.

4) **Good Friday and Holy Saturday Veneration of the Cross**

All day Friday and Saturday there will be a large crucifix in the Holy Family Cathedral parking lot. All the faithful are invited to 'drive by' and venerate from their cars. This veneration will respect required 'personal distancing' and limits on numbers of people gathered.

5) **Easter Vigil on Saturday April 11 at 9 p.m.**

6) **Easter Sunday, April 12 at 10 a.m.**

All Masses and the Good Friday services will be live-streamed and can be accessed from the diocesan website at <https://rcdos.ca>.

A reminder that the directives of March 17 continue to be in place, and address:

- Penitential Services
- Other Sacraments
- Sacramental Preparation
- Funerals
- Marriages
- General Parish Gatherings
- Access to Churches; Cleaning; Removal of books, hymnals, and pamphlets;
- Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

Regarding **Ministry to the Sick and Shut-ins**: please see the guidelines attached that will assist you with fulfilling medical advisories about physical human contact vis-à-vis administering the Sacraments to the sick and dying.

I remind us all to also be vigilant about "**Community Caring.**" Let us encourage our parish communities to be mindful of the need to support fellow parishioners and other community members, especially elders, the sick, and those who might be otherwise home-bound. Of course, we do all of this seeking local coordination to assure compliance with the Chief Medical Officer directives.

All other liturgical directives that I have communicated to the Diocese in earlier updates remain in place. Please join with me in prayer for a rapid end to the COVID-19 virus. May God grant healing to those who are ill, and eternal rest to those who have died. May the Lord's blessing come upon our medical professionals and civic authorities, who continue to strive with enormous effort and expertise to keep all of us safe.

Finally, I am encouraged by the words the Entrance Antiphon for today's Eucharistic liturgy: "*Wait for the Lord; be strong; be stout-hearted, and wait for the Lord!*" (Psalm 26)

Yours sincerely, in Christ,



✠ Most Rev. Mark A. Hagemoen