

DIOCESE OF SALT LAKE CITY  
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OFFICE OF THE BISHOP

**MEMORANDUM**

**DATE:** March 27, 2020

**TO:** All Clergy, Religious, Seminarians, Principals, Religious Education Directors and Diocesan Staff

**FROM:** Bishop Oscar A. Solis

**WHAT:** \*PASTORAL INITIATIVES  
\*Update - DECREE in time of Covid-19 (II) from His Eminence Robert Cardinal Sarah (Prefect, Congregation for Divine Worship and the Discipline of the Sacraments, March 25, 2020)

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During these difficult times, it is important that all our parish churches and missions throughout the diocese concretely share our solidarity and commitment to the faith renewal of the faithful through the observance of the traditional Lenten practices of prayer, fasting and almsgiving. The manner of carrying out these initiatives manifests our unity in our mission of responding to the spiritual needs of the faithful and make them know that God, the Church and their shepherds are with them especially during time of crisis. In that regard I am asking that each parish and mission, in so far as possible, support and implement the following:

**PASTORAL INITIATIVES**

1. Starting the weekend of March 28-29, 2020 until Easter Sunday (except on Holy Thursday until Easter Vigil), all churches and missions will ring/peal the bells at 12noon and 6pm and encourage parishioners to pray the Angelus at home with their family and the Act of Consecration of our Diocese to the Immaculate Heart of Mary.

Please provide copy of the prayer. This will be posted at our diocesan website every day.

**THE ANGELUS**

*The Angel of the Lord declared unto Mary,  
R. And she conceived of the Holy Spirit. Hail Mary, .....*

*Behold the handmaid of the Lord.  
R. Be it done unto me according to Your Word. Hail Mary, .....*

*And the Word was made flesh  
R. And dwelt among us. Hail Mary.....*

*Pray for us, O holy Mother of God.  
R. That we may be made worthy of the promises of Christ.*

*Let us pray: Pour forth, we beseech You, O Lord, Your Grace into our hearts; that as we have known the incarnation of Christ, your Son by the message of an angel, so by His passion and cross, we may be brought to the glory of His Resurrection. Through the same Christ, our Lord. Amen.*

## **Prayer of Consecration of our Diocese to the Immaculate Heart of Mary**

O Mary, Virgin most powerful and Mother of Mercy, we consecrate our very being, our whole life and ourselves: all that we have and all that we love to your Immaculate Heart. We consecrate to you our bodies, our hearts, and our souls, our homes, our families our Diocese and our country. We desire all that is in us and around us may share in the benefits of your motherly blessing.

We make this act of consecration and pledge to profess courageously and at all times, the truths of our holy Faith, and to live our Christian life as genuine Catholics, and obedient to our Holy Father, Pope Francis, the bishops and the clergy in communion with him. We pledge to keep our Baptismal promises and the Commandments of God and His Church, in particular to keep holy the Lord's Day.

We promise you our glorious Mother of God, to devote ourselves wholeheartedly to the proclamation of the Gospel, and the spreading of devotion to your Immaculate Heart, in order to hasten and assure through the intercession of your Immaculate Heart, the coming of the kingdom of your Divine Son, in our own hearts and all the people of the world.

O Mary, Refuge of sinners and Health of the sick, you gave hope to your people in time of distress, and brought them comfort in time of sorrow. Keep us under your mantle of protection, all those who are suffering because of the coronavirus disease, and those who care for the sick and minister to their needs, as your Son implores us to do for one another.

Be with us now as a sign of salvation and hope, as we entrust ourselves to your loving care. Help us, O Mother of Divine Love, to remain steadfast in the midst of fear, suffering and death. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

## **2. Special Week of Prayer for the People of God and Special Intention for all Health Care Workers and Government Leaders on March 30 – April 3, 2020**

I encourage all our priests to celebrate our private weekend Masses for a special intention – for all our faithful during this time of crisis, for all the Medical Personnel in the frontline and Health Care workers. Pray for them as they risk and offer themselves in selfless sacrifice to combat the coronavirus pandemic and to save the lives of those who are sick and our community.

Let us offer our fervent prayer intentions in our Masses, Rosaries, during our Holy Hour, and in our moments of personal prayer:

- For doctors, nurses, medical staff, all people working in hospitals and clinics, all our medical specialists and researchers for their heroic service to our people in these difficult times.

- For their continued safety and well-being as well as for their families and loved ones
- For those infected by the disease and the vulnerable, may they find healing in God's grace.
- For those who have died and their loved ones in their moments of grief, that they may find hope and consolation in God's promise of eternal life.
- For families of the deceased and their loved ones in their time of grief.

I hope our prayers will move us to action to support the efforts of all the health care workers and cooperate in spirit of charity and sacrifice by obeying the cautionary directives so as not to spread the disease and jeopardize the lives of others. **Please celebrate your private Masses strictly without the presence of the faithful.**

- 3. All churches offer opportunities for the Sacrament of Reconciliation or individual confession daily from 4pm – 6pm, starting March 30, 2020 through Easter – if possible, observing healthy safety measures. You may offer more hours depending on your availability if you desire.**
- 4. Possible Private Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament in every church each day for several hours each afternoon (possibly from 5pm -7pm) respecting the need for social distancing. Make schedule of shifts so as to observe crowding.**
- 5. Good Friday, April 10, 2020 is to be observed as a day of fast and abstinence, as outlined on the Diocesan Lenten Guidelines previously published.**
- 6. Conduct a special Food Drive for the needy on two 2 weekends: April 5 and 12; have parishioners dropped off food items at designated place in the church grounds. Either have these goods for your food bank, or deliver to needy families in your parish, or give to CCS St. Vincent de Paul Dining Hall. This is a Lenten service of charity and our commitment to the needy.**

\*Note: Coronavirus pandemic exhibited the selfishness of some who bought more goods and other basic supplies forgetting the needs of others. It will be a great gesture of charity to share what we have with those who do not have and could not buy these for themselves and their family. What a great act of charity and selflessness when there is a great need, we consider not only our self but also the welfare of others.

### **UPDATES DECREE in time of Covid-19 (II)**

Considering the rapidly evolving situation of the Covid-19 pandemic and taking into account observations which have come from Episcopal Conferences, this Congregation now offers an update to the general indications and suggestions already given to Bishops in the preceding decree of 19 March 2020.

Given that the date of Easter cannot be transferred, in the countries which have been struck by the disease and where restrictions around the assembly and movement of people have been imposed, **Bishops and priests may celebrate the rites of Holy Week without the presence of the people and in a suitable place, avoiding con-celebration and omitting the sign of peace.**

**The faithful should be informed of the beginning times of the celebrations so that they can prayerfully unite themselves in their homes. Means of live (not recorded) telematics broadcasts can be of help.** In any event it remains important to dedicate an adequate time to prayer, giving importance above all to the *Liturgia Horarum*.

**The Episcopal Conferences and individual dioceses will see to it that resources are provided to support family and personal prayer.**

1 - **Palm Sunday.** The Commemoration of the Lord's Entrance into Jerusalem is to be celebrated within sacred buildings; in Cathedral churches the second form given in the Roman Missal is to be adopted; **in parish churches and in other places the third form is to be used.**

2 – **The Chrism Mass.** Evaluating the concrete situation in different countries, the Episcopal Conferences will be able to give indications about a possible transfer to another date.

3 – **Holy Thursday.** **The washing of feet, which is already optional, is to be omitted. At the end of the Mass of the Lord's Supper the procession is also omitted and the Blessed Sacrament is to be kept in the tabernacle.** On this day the **faculty to celebrate Mass in a suitable place, without the presence of the people, is exceptionally granted to all priests.**

4 – **Good Friday.** In the Universal Prayer, **Bishops will arrange to have a special intention prepared for those who find themselves in distress, the sick, the dead, (cf. *Missale Romanum*).** **The adoration of the Cross by kissing it shall be limited solely to the celebrant.**

5 – **The Easter Vigil:** Is to be **celebrated only in Cathedral and parish churches.** For the "Baptismal Liturgy" only the "Renewal of Baptismal Promises" is maintained (cf. *Missale Romanum*).

Seminaries, houses of clergy, monasteries and religious communities shall follow the indications of this decree.

Expressions of popular piety and processions which enrich the days of Holy Week and the Paschal Triduum can be transferred to other suitable days in the year, for example 14 and 15 September, according to the judgement of the Diocesan Bishop.

*De mandato Summi Pontificis pro hoc tantum anno 2020..*

**Robert Cardinal Sarah**  
**Prefect of Congregation**

**✠ Arthur Roche**  
**Archbishop Secretary**

## **DIOCESAN PLAN HOLY WEEK and SERVICES**

### **RECOMMENDATIONS:**

1. All **PRIVATE MASSES** are celebrated without the physical presence of the faithful.
2. Use **SIMPLE RITUALS**
3. If able, **LIVE STREAM OR VIDEO-RECORD THE MASS** so parishioners can participate virtually through the internet or other forms of social media.
4. Inform and announce to the faithful the times of the celebration so they could prayerfully unite and participate in their own homes with family members
5. Provide resources to help and support family with personal prayer
6. If you are able to schedule celebrations of private Masses, individual Confessions, Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, Rosary and other liturgical services, please send information to my office so we can have these publicized in our diocesan website so that the faithful may be participate from their homes
7. Announce your availability in case of emergency for the Sacrament of Anointing and Viaticum
8. Attached (further down) is the Schedule of Liturgical Services at the Cathedral of the Madeleine. All services will be live streamed (<https://utcotm.org>). Please announce/publicize it to the schedule to your parishioners

### **PALM SUNDAY:**

- Blessing of Palms is optional
- Reading of the Passion
- Can add instrumentalist and cantor / a 2 member choir for music to enhance the liturgy
- Possible distribution of Blessed Palms at a designated place - sort of pick-up or drive thru handing out with gloves to passenger inside their cars with gloves

**CHRISM MASS: Cathedral only. Note: Clergy Day of Prayer is cancelled.**

### **MASS OF THE LORD'S SUPPER**

- No procession; No Washing of the Feet

- Add special intention for the sick, the dead and for those who feel lost or dismayed
- No Procession of the Eucharist at conclusion of Holy Mass - Blessed Sacrament retained in Tabernacle
- Option: Live stream after the Mass by focusing on the Blessed Sacrament for personal adoration in their home for 2 hours. Offer Videotaped of Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, flash prayers on the screen; with Eucharistic hymns background music.
- Priests unable to celebrate the Mass should instead pray the Vespers of the Day (*Liturgy of the Hours*)

### **GOOD FRIDAY: Liturgy of the Word / Veneration of the Cross / Holy Communion**

- No entrance procession; Prostrate at the altar
- Reading of the Passion of Our Lord
- Additional Intercession for those who are victims of Coronavirus pandemic: the sick, the dead, for those who feel lost or dismayed (*Missale Romanum, p. 314 n. 13*)
- Veneration of the Cross is for celebrant only
- Option: Live stream Stations of the Cross without the presence of the congregation; also Video - Broadcast Christ's Seven Last Words

### **EASTER VIGIL SERVICES:**

- No blessing of the Fire; Lighting of the Paschal Candle
- Exultet and Gloria; Readings
- Celebration of the Sacraments of Initiation is omitted and postponed to some other date
- Blessing of water on small bowl; renewal of Baptismal Vows; sprinkling
- Priest unable to celebrate can pray the Office of Readings for Easter Sunday (*Liturgy of the Hour*)

### **EASTER SUNDAY**

Private Mass / Live-streamed

Renewal of Baptismal Promises

Instrumentalist: Organist / Cantor and 2-3 Singers to enhance the liturgy

## **Cathedral of the Madeleine: Holy Week & Easter**

**NOTE:** All Private Masses without the physical presence of the congregation;  
Simple Ritual; Live streamed

### **PALM SUNDAY: 11:00am in English / 3:00pm in Spanish**

- Bishop (Presider) / Concelebrants – Cathedral Clergy / Deacon
- Blessing of Palms in front of the Sanctuary
- Short Form Passion read by one Deacon, Priest and Bishop
- Organist, Director, 3 Schola Singers. Observe distancing and threshold of 10
- Possible distribution of Blessed Palms at the plaza or upper parking lot - sort of drive thru handing out with gloves to passenger inside their cars with gloves.

### **TRIDUUM**

*Note: Morning Prayers live stream at 8:00am and include Cantor / 3 Schola singers / Organ. Observe distancing*

### **HOLY THURSDAY:**

#### **CHRISM MASS – 10am Bi-lingual**

- Bishop (Presider) / Concelebrants – Cathedral Clergy / Deacon
- Organist, Director / 3 Schola Singers (observe distancing and threshold of 10)
- No Renewal Rites
- Everything done on the Altar including Blessing of the Oils, etc...
- Blessed Oils will be distributed to the parishes & missions or ready for pick up

#### **MASS OF THE LORD'S SUPPER - 5:00pm Bilingual**

- Clergy Only: Bishop-Presider; Concelebrants –Cathedral Clergy; Deacon;
- Organist, Director, 3 Cantor - Schola Singers
- No procession; No Washing of the Feet
- No Procession of the Eucharist at conclusion of Holy Mass - Blessed Sacrament retained in Tabernacle
- Option: Live stream and focused on the Tabernacle to provide personal adoration of the Blessed Sacrament in their home till 9pm. While live streaming, flash Eucharistic prayers on screen with background appropriate hymns or subdued background music

#### **GOOD FRIDAY: *Station of the Cross – 11am in English / 5:00pm in Spanish***

Lived Stream

- Presider; Server; Organist /Instrumentalist; Director / 3 Schola Singers

## **LITURGY OF THE WORD / VENERATION OF THE CROSS / HOLY COMMUNION**

***12noon in English / 6:00pm in Spanish***

- Bishop-Presider; Concelebrants –Cathedral Clergy; Deacon
- Organist, Director, 3 Cantor/Schola Singers
- Reading of the Passion: 3 or readers with distinct parts, including the presider
- Special intentions/intercessions for victims of Coronavirus pandemic: the sick, the dead and those who feel lost or dismayed (*Missale Romanum p.314 n.13*)
- Simplified Adoration of the Cross – Presider kisses the cross
- Holy Communion

## **EASTER SERVICES VIGIL: 8pm Bilingual**

- Clergy Only: Bishop-Presider; Concelebrants –Cathedral Clergy; Deacon
- Organist, Director, 3 Cantor / Schola Singers
- All rites done on the altar
- No blessing of the fire
- Paschal Candle Lit by Bishop / incense / procession omitted
- Exultet is sung / Gloria
- Liturgy of the Word: 4 Readings / Responses (2 in English \* 2 in Spanish)
- Renewal of Baptismal Promises from Cathedra
- No Rites of Christian Initiation / Baptism (postponed and to be rescheduled in the immediate future after the coronavirus crisis)

## **EASTER SUNDAY – 11am in English & 3pm in Spanish**

- Clergy Only Live-streamed
- Bishop (presider); Concelebrant – Cathedral clergy; Deacon
- Organist / Director / 3 Schola Singers
- Renewal of Baptismal Promises from Cathedra

**Thank you for your commitment to our ministry, your cooperation and collaboration! Lenten Blessings to you and your faith communities!**