

3/13/20 – Email from Bishop Sheridan:

Dear Father/Deacon,

In light of the rapidly changing coronavirus event, the bishops of Colorado have, out of an abundance of caution, united in the decision to cancel the following liturgies, events and gatherings. Please find below particular instructions regarding diocesan policies:

1. Masses: All public Masses will be canceled from March 13<sup>th</sup> to March 31<sup>st</sup> 2020. Private Masses should be celebrated by priests.
2. Weddings: Weddings that are scheduled and cannot be rescheduled during this time period, may be celebrated with ministers and immediate family.
3. Funerals: Funeral Masses are to be postponed. Alternatively, a burial or inurnment may be held with the minimum number of participants, with a memorial Mass to be celebrated at a later date.
4. Confessions: Confessions should continue to be offered at regular times.
5. Anointing: Anointing of the Sick should be offered if there is a danger of death. Other visitation and distribution of Communion in nursing homes, hospitals, and homes should be suspended during this period.
6. Parish Events: All Parish events, including large meetings, education programs, ministries, etc., are to be canceled during this time period.
7. Parishioners, of course, are dispensed from the Sunday obligation to attend Mass. Priests are not dispensed. Deacons in the parish may be invited to join the priest when he celebrates Mass (privately).

I regret having to make these decisions. I have done so only after much consideration and discussion with the other bishops of the state.

This remains a dynamic and evolving situation. We will continue to monitor developments and communicate new recommendations and updates as soon as possible.

+MJS