
MEMORANDUM

TO: THE LAY FAITHFUL OF THE DIOCESE OF OAKLAND

FROM: BISHOP MICHAEL C. BARBER, SJ *+ MBSJ*

SUBJECT: LITURGY DURING CORONAVIRUS OUTBREAK **UPDATE #5**

DATE: MARCH 16, 2020



In collaboration with local bay area officials, and in service to the common good of our communities and our country, the Diocese of Oakland is immediately putting into effect the following actions:

- 1.) All public Masses are suspended. Priests will be receiving specific guidance from Bishop Barber regarding the celebration of sacraments, including baptisms, weddings and funerals.
 - a. Information on online daily Masses which parishes may want to distribute online can be found using this link: <https://www.oakdiocese.org/response-to-coronavirus-pandemic>
- 2.) Churches will remain open to provide a place of prayer and solace for people. Proper hygiene and social distancing will continue to be emphasized per CDC guidelines. The link is here: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prepare/prevention.html>
- 3.) All other events at parishes and schools are to be postponed, rescheduled or cancelled until further notice.
- 4.) **All chancery employees are to remain at home during this period.** They are being compensated as normal. Those that can work remotely are being required to do so. Those whose job responsibilities do not allow them to work remotely are being required to stay in communication with their team or supervisor. **We strongly encourage our parishes to follow a similar approach with their employees.**

In issuing these new guidelines I share with you my prayer invitation to our Chancery Staff:

Our Lady, Health of the Sick, you have always come to the aid of the Church in times of plague, pestilence and danger.

We pray to you now to intercede for us with your Son.