



**DIRECTIVES FOR THE CELEBRATION OF MASS  
IN THE ARCHDIOCESE OF PHILADELPHIA  
IN RESPONSE TO THE POTENTIAL SPREAD  
OF THE CORONAVIRUS (COVID-19)  
UPDATE, March 13, 2020**

Dear Priests and Deacons,

At this point in the Coronavirus pandemic, our first response continues to be the spiritual and pastoral care of the faithful and all people in the Archdiocese of Philadelphia. Electronic and social media should be employed to encourage the faithful to turn to the Lord for his grace and mercy at this time and also to ask the heavenly help of Mary and the Saints. Our cooperation with health and government officials to impede the spreading of the Coronavirus requires the additional directives below with regard to the Sacred Liturgy.

**SUNDAY MASS**

As of March 12, 2020 and until further notice, Archbishop Nelson Perez has dispensed the faithful of the Archdiocese of Philadelphia from the obligation to attend Sunday Mass. All regularly scheduled Masses in our churches will remain open to the public for those who wish to attend. Please include an intention in the Universal Prayer for all those impacted by the Coronavirus. These Masses are to be celebrated in the usual manner.

This dispensation on the part of the Archbishop is to assist the faithful, especially the elderly, to choose not to go to Mass for the benefit of their own health and the health of others. Sunday remains the Lord's Day and those who do stay home are to be encouraged to read the Word of God, especially the readings for Sunday, to make a Spiritual Communion, and/or pray the Holy Rosary.

**CONFIRMATIONS**

As of today, March 13, 2020 through March 31, 2020, the celebration of the Sacrament of Confirmation throughout the Archdiocese of Philadelphia is postponed. The Bishop celebrant of the conferral of Confirmation, in consultation with the pastor, will make arrangements for a new date for the celebration. Pastors are asked to inform their parishioners and all those involved with the Confirmations scheduled during this period of the postponement.

**OTHER LITURGICAL CELEBRATIONS AND PUBLIC DEVOTIONS**

Daily Masses, Weddings, Funerals and public devotions are to take place as scheduled and planned. Any decision to postpone and reschedule is to be made with due regard for the benefit and concern of all involved.

If you have any further questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Thank you and God bless,  
Father Dennis Gill