***The Celebration of the Sacrament of Baptism During the Covid 19 Epidemic***

The celebration of the Sacrament of Baptism will resume and be scheduled beginning July 1, 2020.

Baptisms will only be celebrated on Sundays at 12:45 or at a time determined in consultation with the celebrant of Baptism; Baptism during the celebration of the weekend Eucharist is suspended temporarily.

All those attending the Baptism must be masked or with some cloth covering; proper physical distancing must be observed. The congregation assembled for the celebration of Baptism must be seated with physical distancing properly observed, with the exception of members of a household.

A covered table with a bowl and pitcher of water will be placed in the font for the celebration of Baptism.

The Order of Baptism for One Child, the Second Typical Edition, is used for the celebration with the following emendations:

In the *Rite of Receiving the* Child, the signing of the child’s forehead is replaced by a blessing of the child by the celebrant. He invites the *parents only* to sign the baby’s forehead with the sign of the cross.

While the Prayer of Exorcism is still prayed, the *Anointing with the Oil of Catechumens* is omitted.

For the *Blessing of Water and Invocation of God Over the Water* (91, outside Easter time), the celebrant does not touch the water at “May the power of the Holy Spirit, O Lord we pray …” and instead extends his hand over the water.

For the baptizing of the child, the celebrant pours water while the child is held by the mother or the father.

*The Explanatory Rites:*

*Anointing after Baptism*: The celebrant anoints the child with the Sacred Chrism using a cotton swab.

*Handing on of a Lighted Candle*: the father or godfather takes the small candle and the celebrant lights it from the paschal candle.

If the *Ephphatha* is used, the celebrant blesses the ears and mouth of the child while saying the prayer but does not touch the child.