



The Most Reverend Charles C. Thompson  
Archdiocese of Indianapolis

1400 N. Meridian Street  
Indianapolis, IN 46202-2367  
317-236-1403

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Dear Brother Priests & PLC's:

These few weeks of staying in place to fight the coronavirus, although a very short time frame in the grand scheme of things, has felt like ages for many. The closing of churches has evoked sadness and frustration for all of us and our people. As you may recall, we closed churches out of an abundance of caution.

While we continue to take great care and utilize the recommended precautions, I believe that it is time to begin the gradual process of reopening our churches and resuming the celebration of the Sacraments publicly.

Reopening our churches for private prayer and devotions and for the celebration of the Sacrament of Penance will be a part of our first phase, and this will be possible beginning on Wednesday, May 13. In the following week, beginning on Tuesday, May 19, the offering of weekday Masses and some other smaller celebrations may begin. Finally, we will return to the celebration of Masses for Sunday and the remainder of most of the postponed celebrations of the Sacraments. A decision has not been made regarding the postponed celebrations of the Sacrament of Confirmation. As of now, all confirmation celebrations through May 31<sup>st</sup> are postponed. More information will be forthcoming.

Please understand that I am allowing, not mandating, that churches reopen on next Wednesday, May 13. In fact, local directives in some places may limit the reopening process of some churches. For those who need more time, that is understandable. For those who prefer to provide the Sacrament of Reconciliation outdoors rather than inside, that is acceptable as well.

Some provisions for resuming public liturgical celebrations of Mass and other Sacraments are provided with this letter. In the meantime, if you have any concerns or questions, please direct these to Fr. Pat Beidelman and/or Fr. Eric Johnson.

With assurance of my prayers and best wishes, I remain

Sincerely yours in Christ,

+ *Charles C. Thompson*

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