

Q&A for the Faithful on Worship in the Time of Public Health Concern Archdiocese of Cincinnati

The Catholic bishops of Ohio have suspended all public Masses/liturgies through April 12, 2020.

The health and safety of all who worship in our churches, chapels, and oratories is always of the highest priority for the Archdiocese of Cincinnati. The following guidance is given in that regard. In all matters, follow the specific directives of local health authorities.

**Q. What does it mean to be dispensed from my obligation to attend Mass on Sunday?
How can I participate in other ways?**

A. This dispensation means that until at least April 12, 2020 no one is obligated to participate in Mass on Sundays or other days of obligation. However, you are encouraged to continue the practice of faith by viewing livestreams of the liturgy (found at www.catholiccincinnati.org), reading the scriptures of the day (www.usccb.org), and praying together as a family. There is no obligation to receive Communion outside of Mass. You can prayer resources for individuals and families at www.catholiccincinnati.org/worship.

Q. What if I or a member of my family is critically ill?

A. If you or a family member are critically ill, contact your parish office immediately and every effort will be made for you to be anointed as quickly as possible. Priests will not ordinarily visit your home. We ask that – if at all possible – those who need to be anointed and are not already hospitalized or in a nursing home, would come to church.

Q. What if I need to go to confession?

A. Those conscious of grave sin should normally celebrate the Sacrament of Penance as soon as possible. Parishes will make every effort to schedule and publicize appropriate times for individual confessions in churches. Contact your pastor for other opportunities to celebrate this sacrament as needed.

Q. What if I had a wedding scheduled in a church or chapel?

A. Contact the church or chapel immediately to discuss options for rescheduling a wedding liturgy or celebrating it in a modified, limited way. Remember to contact the county clerk's office first to ensure you can get your license in a timely manner.

Q. What if my baby's baptism was scheduled or a newborn needs to be baptized?

A. Any child in danger of death should be baptized without delay, including in a hospital or private home. Other babies should be baptized within the first weeks after birth, whenever this can be done safely. Contact your parish in non-emergency situations to arrange for your child's baptism. Baptisms will not normally take place in private homes.

Q. What if a loved one dies? Where and when can a funeral liturgy take place?

A. Contact your parish office to make arrangements for a funeral liturgy which will be limited to less than 50 people, or a Mass for the Dead at some future time after burial now. Contact the funeral home to see how long the interval between death and a funeral liturgy can be.

