




OFFICE OF THE BISHOP

DATE: March 25, 2020

TO: All Priests, Deacons, & Parish Administrators

FROM: Bishop Peter Christensen 

RE: Triduum Liturgies

In response to Idaho Governor Brad Little's announcement related to the Covid-19 outbreak in the state with his "stay at home" order, I am complying with his request by closing the Chancery offices, and sending all employees home. This statewide "Stay Home" order and extreme emergency declaration will be in effect throughout the state for the next 21 days (April 15 – three days after Easter) starting today. Those who are able, will work as best they can from their homes. Additionally, many critical Chancery employees have access to their work email while off-site. If you wish to speak to someone in the Chancery, I suggest you contact them via email. Please understand that during these unprecedented times, our ability to respond to your requests or communications may be delayed.

Further, as we continue to respond to the Covid-19 outbreak, it has become necessary that *the public suspension of liturgies must remain in place through Holy Week and Easter*. This includes the celebrations associated with the Triduum.

Parishes and communities are to abide by the regulations stipulated in the Decree issued by the Congregation for Divine Worship and Discipline of the Sacraments (Prot. N. 153/20): "...in the Cathedral and parish churches, *though without the physical participation of the faithful*, the Bishop and parish priest(s) can celebrate the liturgical mysteries of the Paschal Triduum. The faithful should be informed of the times of the celebration so that they can prayerfully unite themselves in their homes. In this occasion, the means of live (not recorded) televisual or internet broadcasts are helpful." (Please note that this decree gives permission to do what the Missal says you may not do—celebrate without the faithful in attendance—but it is not compulsory.)

In the Diocese of Boise, priests are encouraged to move the rites of initiation that would normally be celebrated at the Easter Vigil to the Solemnity of Pentecost, unless those rites can be accomplished while abiding by the restrictions set in place by government and public health officials.

We are working on resources outlining the Triduum liturgies as they are to be celebrated during this suspension. You will be sent basic orders of worship for Holy Thursday, Good Friday, and Easter, no later than Friday, March 27th.