

Directives to Clergy from Bishop Curtis Guillory, Bishop of Beaumont, re the Coronavirus **March 19, 2020**

Please note an Addition to Directive #1

1. All priests are encouraged to offer daily Mass (without a congregation) for the assigned intentions of the parish.

Addition: The priest may have one adult who will be lector and server to assist the celebrant at his private Mass. (3-19-2020)

2. Information re streamed parish masses should be disseminated as effectively as possible. The diocesan website lists the parishes which stream, at present.

3. Baptisms may be celebrated in the church, assuming the infant is in good health, with no more than 10 persons present. Multiple baptisms simultaneously are not permitted.

Infants who are ill or in danger of death should be baptized promptly wherever they are. A priest, by law, may confirm infants in danger of death.

4. Funerals are graveside only. Memorial Masses can be scheduled when the bishop lifts the suspension.

5. Confirmations will be rescheduled through the bishop's office when the bishop lifts the suspension.

6. The Elect and the Candidates can be brought into the Church at the pastor's discretion when the bishop lifts the suspension.

7. Pastors may publicize the days/hours when the parish church will be open for private prayer. No groups should gather for the rosary, stations, etc.

8. Penance Services are cancelled.

9. Confessions are more safely heard in an open setting rather than the tiny confessional.
10. Drain and clean all holy water fonts. Do not refill until the crisis has passed.
11. Marriages may be celebrated in the church, without mass, with no more than 10 persons present.
12. Distribution of Communion for the Sick and Viaticum are reserved to priests and deacons at this time, except for prisons.
13. Anointing of the Sick is to be celebrated when requested with no more than 10 persons present; in medical-institutional settings, please observe their regulations.
14. Groups described in these directives should not exceed 10 persons. Please ask for social distancing between persons.

These directives will be posted on the diocesan website. Pastors may publicize as they see fit.