



Diocese of Rockford

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Office of the Bishop

April 9, 2020

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

As we prepare to enter into the Sacred Triduum, the holiest days of the Church's liturgical year, I write to you once more. As I stated in my letter to you of March 26, 2020, we are a people of hope and trust in the Lord.

Since my previous letter, the saga of the coronavirus has continued and even worsened throughout the country and in the State of Illinois. The guidance from health officials indicates that the coming days may bring the peak of the spread of the virus. For that reason, our vigilance in conforming to practices to mitigate the spread of the virus continue to be necessary and a contribution to the health and common good of our communities.

Holy Thursday, Good Friday, Holy Saturday and Easter Sunday itself will be for us special acts of faith this year. Because we hope and trust in Christ, even without the opportunity to be physically present for the Masses and ceremonies, we know that we can join the Church of all time and throughout the world in venerating Christ's suffering and death and in spiritually uniting ourselves to the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass, even if we can only watch by television or social media.

Given the extension of the coronavirus outbreak, I take this opportunity to extend the dispensation given to all the faithful from the obligation of attending Sunday Mass beyond the original Easter Sunday limit. That dispensation will now be extended indefinitely until such time as circumstances allow for the lifting of the suspension of public Masses in the Diocese of Rockford. Any change in that dispensation will of course be clearly communicated at the appropriate time.

With the assurance of my prayers for all of you during this challenging time, and wishing you a Blessed Easter, I am

Sincerely yours in Christ,

+ *David J. Malloy*

Most Reverend David J. Malloy
Bishop of Rockford