



Catholic Diocese of Evansville

Office of the Bishop

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March 30, 2020

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

It is now clear that the continuing COVID-19 health crisis will require that the suspension of public liturgies in the Diocese of Evansville continue through Holy Week and Easter, including the Chrism Mass which will be rescheduled. This is the case throughout much of our country, the Vatican and around the world. While we understand the necessary health precautions, we still feel the deep sadness that absence will entail. It is certainly our fervent hope and prayer that health conditions will soon improve and that we will be able to gather once again in our churches to celebrate the Holy Eucharist.

Of course, the inability to publicly celebrate these liturgies does not mean that Holy Week and Easter are somehow “cancelled.” The tremendous graces of these holy days are still offered to us. Our priests will be celebrating the Triduum liturgies, lifting up you and your intentions. I hope that you will participate in these services by watching from home. There are many other ways to observe this sacred time, and the diocese and your parish will be sharing some ideas in the days to come. Through a prayerful and reflective observance of the Sacred Triduum in our homes, we can be intimately joined to the Lord at the Last Supper, on Calvary and at the empty tomb.

Even as parishes look to different means to serve the needs of their people, they still depend on your financial support. I would ask, if you are able, to please continue to send (via mail or e-giving) your offertory gift to your parish. I am very grateful for your generosity during these challenging times.

Let us continue to remember in prayer all those impacted by this health crisis, especially the sick and those that care for them. May the Lord bless all of you as we prepare to celebrate the holiest of all weeks.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Most Reverend Joseph M. Siegel, DD, STL
Bishop of Evansville