

Bishop Walkowiak issues the following directives for parishes and schools in the diocese, effective immediately, in harmony with these government guidelines:

- Weekend Masses through Sunday, March 29 in the Diocese of Grand Rapids have been canceled. However, the Church's life of prayer must continue:
  - Churches should remain open for private prayer during normal weekend Mass times and other times as normally scheduled.
  - Mass will continue to be livestreamed from the cathedral for those who wish to view it. It can be viewed on FOX 17, on the **diocesan website** and **Facebook** page.
  - Bishop Walkowiak will celebrate the 10 a.m. Mass at the cathedral on Sunday, March 15.
  - Catholics are encouraged to make a **spiritual Communion**, pray the rosary, or meditate on Sacred Scripture to keep holy the Lord's Day.
- Daily Masses, where less than 100 people are gathered, should continue in accord with the **guidelines from March 11, 2020** in place.
- Visits to the sick and homebound should continue. Normal cold/flu season guidelines should be followed.
- Funeral Masses may be celebrated.
- Confirmation Masses through Wednesday, April 1 have been canceled and will be rescheduled.
- All Catholic Schools in the diocese are closed in accordance with the Governor's order.
- Faith Formation classes should be suspended until Monday, April 6 in accordance with the Governor's order. Plans should be made to deliver religious instruction curriculum to families if possible.
- Any event at a parish where more than 100 people are gathered in a single space indoors should be postponed or canceled until further notice.
  - Schools and parishes may consider drive thru or take-out options for fish fries where less than 100 people are gathered in a single space indoors.
- The March 26<sup>th</sup> evening of penance, "The Light is ON for You" should take place as scheduled. Any other communal penance services should be modified accordingly.
- Meetings for the *Our Shepherds – Our Future Capital* Campaign will be postponed at this time. Updates will be communicated as we receive them.
- If you are sick, please stay home.