



OFFICE OF THE BISHOP

March 27, 2020

To the faithful of the Eparchy of Passaic:

On March 16, all public services in the Eparchy of Passaic were cancelled through March 29, and the people were dispensed from the obligation to attend the Eucharist on Sundays.

Now all the faithful are **DISPENSED** from the obligation to attend the Eucharist on Sunday through April 12, that is, Pascha or Easter Sunday. Please remember that the Bishop cannot dispense from Divine Law. We are all bound by Divine Law to keep holy the Lord's Day by prayer and avoiding unnecessary work.

From now the **PUBLIC SERVICES ARE SUSPENDED INSIDE CHURCHES** through April 4, that is, Flowery Sunday or Palm Sunday. However, the parish may livestream a service without the public present. A parish may have a service in the parking lot or a large open area outside, provided that permission is given by the local government, and the recommendations of the medical experts are followed. However, please respect local sentiment as well. In the more densely populated areas, many people are in a state of panic.

Baptisms, weddings, and funerals may be celebrated with the immediate family provided that there are no more than ten people total, as requested by our President.

Priests may celebrate the Eucharist, even with no one in attendance, and the pastor is authorized to move or combine stipends for the good of the faithful.

Please pray for the medical workers and first responders in this very difficult time. Please pray for our civil authorities who are responsible for difficult decisions.

I commend you to the protection of the Archangel Michael, and especially to the care of the all holy Mother of God.

Yours in Christ,

Most Rev. Kurt Burnette
Eparchial Bishop of Passaic