



ROMAN CATHOLIC  
**Diocese of**  
**SPRINGFIELD-CAPE GIRARDEAU**

*Office of the Bishop*

After seeking input and discussion from the Diocesan Consultors regarding the on-going restrictions imposed by the State of Missouri and local county Health Departments with regard to COVID-19, the following provisions will be implemented for the Diocese of Springfield-Cape Girardeau:

**Beginning Monday, May 18, 2020, public weekday Masses will once again be offered**, with the precautions outlined below **AND** based on local ordinances. You must know the restrictions of your particular county Health Department. Mr. Nick Lund-Molfese, diocesan Director of Health Affairs, is glad to help, at (417) 450-0063 or via Email to [nlund-molfese@dioscg.org](mailto:nlund-molfese@dioscg.org). **Beginning on May 18, 2020, churches may stay open for private prayer.**

Please read the article, "**Guidelines on Sacraments and Pastoral Care, Option 2**," found on Page 8. [Click Here for pages 1-12](#); [Click Here for pages 13-24](#). With this Option, Mass may be offered with all the necessary precautions below, i.e., no servers, no offertory, no sign of peace, no Precious Blood, etc. The distribution of Holy Communion is **AFTER Mass**, so that the congregation only has to move once. The priest, staying in the sanctuary during Mass, does **NOT** wear a mask or gloves. After Mass, for the distribution of Holy Communion, the priest and/or Eucharistic Minister should wear a mask. **Those who prefer to receive Holy Communion on the tongue should come at the end of the line.** Please familiarize yourself with **Option 2**. It is actually simple and straight-forward, upholding dignity and reverence. **Music is minimal**, restricted to cantor, antiphons, and parts of the liturgy. Provisions for **overflow** crowds, especially for Sunday, should be planned ahead of time, using the gym or other gathering space.

**Beginning Saturday evening, May 23, 2020, public weekend Masses may be offered** with the considerations below **IF allowed** by local ordinances. You must know the restrictions of your particular county Health Department. If, due to local restrictions on public gatherings, option 2 is not possible, **pre-arranged times on Saturday evening or Sunday should be set** so the faithful can come to the Church, with the above sanitary precautions, enter the Church to receive Holy Communion, and exit by another door. **Churches may be open for private prayer.** Again, **if Sunday Mass is allowed, plan for overflow crowds** due to crowd restrictions.

**\*The Dispensation from the obligation to attend Mass continues till further notice.**

\*Those sick or at high-risk should stay home.

\*Hand sanitizer should be at the entrances of church.

\*Door knobs, handles, etc., should be sanitized between Masses.

\*Do not travel to another parish for Mass.

\*Masks are highly recommended during Mass.

\*At-risk clergy should have a younger Eucharistic Minister distribute Communion.

\*The 6-foot distancing is to be observed, no servers, no sign of peace, no Precious Blood.

\*Local Health Departments must be consulted

Be prepared, be pastoral, be careful as we navigate re-opening our churches.

Also, [click here](#) for a letter from Dr. Gene Aug, Interim Superintendent of Schools, regarding day-care programs, summer school, enrichment programs, and sports.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

+Bishop Edward M. Rice