



DIOCESE OF METUCHEN - HOLY WEEK AND TRIDUUM 2020

In time of COVID-19 Pandemic

In light of further restrictions by Governor Murphy and the Decree of the Congregation for Divine Worship and the Discipline of the Sacraments, Bishop Checchio promulgates the following regarding the liturgies of Palm Sunday 2020 and Holy Week 2020 throughout the Diocese of Metuchen to assist the clergy and the faithful in the spiritual celebration of the Paschal Mysteries. As Bishop Checchio encourages us to continue to strive to engage our faithful in prayer during these days, he is also conscientious of the need to follow the guidelines of our state so as to hopefully hamper the spread of the virus to our faithful. Therefore, religious activities that would encourage groups of faithful to come to our churches are discouraged and in fact, not allowed by the state at this time. We are strictly following the guidelines from the Holy See too.

PALM SUNDAY

On Palm Sunday there is to be NO PUBLIC GATHERING inside or outside Churches.

The Mass for Palm Sunday will be celebrated by the Bishop **without a congregation**, with palms blessed, and broadcast via the live-stream internet on the Cathedral web site at <https://www.stfranciscathedral.org/> at 10:30 am on Sunday, April 5, 2020.

In parish churches, the Mass for Palm Sunday may be celebrated **without a congregation** by the pastors. Blessed palms can be made available for distribution at a later date – they are NOT TO BE DISTRIBUTED UNDER ANY CIRCUMSTANCE at this time. If one person who has the coronavirus even touches some of the palm which someone else will take, they could be infecting them. The risk is too high as doctors are telling us that the virus is very contagious.

HOLY THURSDAY

No public gatherings inside or outside Churches.

The Evening Mass of the Lord's Supper will be celebrated by the Bishop **without a congregation** and broadcast via the live-stream internet on the Cathedral web site at <https://www.stfranciscathedral.org/> at 7:30 pm on Thursday, April 9, 2020.

In parish churches, the Evening Mass of the Lord's Supper may be celebrated **without a congregation** by the pastor.

The faithful are to be informed that parish churches **will NOT BE OPEN** for the usual visitation of churches on Holy Thursday evening. Pastors are **NOT PERMITTED** to leave their churches open at this time.

GOOD FRIDAY

No public gatherings inside or outside Churches.

The Commemoration/Celebration of the Lord's Passion will be celebrated by the Bishop **without a congregation** and broadcast via the live-stream internet on the Cathedral web site at <https://www.stfranciscathedral.org/> at 3:00 pm on Friday, April 10, 2020.

In parish churches, the Commemoration/Celebration of the Lord's Passion may be celebrated **without a congregation** by the pastor.

Stations of the Cross may be observed **without a congregation** in parish churches.

HOLY SATURDAY

No public gatherings inside or outside Churches.

The Easter Vigil will be celebrated by the Bishop **without a congregation** and broadcast via the live-stream internet on the Cathedral web site at <https://www.stfranciscathedral.org/> at 8 pm on Saturday, April 11, 2020.

In parish churches, the Easter Vigil may be celebrated **without a congregation** by the pastor.

EASTER SUNDAY

No public gatherings inside or outside Churches.

Mass for Easter Sunday will be celebrated by the Bishop **without a congregation** and broadcast via the live-stream internet on the Cathedral web site at <https://www.stfranciscathedral.org/> at 10:30 am on Sunday, April 12, 2020.

In parish churches, Mass for Easter Sunday may be celebrated **without a congregation** by the pastor.

****At this time all public worship is suspended** until further notice. We will continue to monitor the status of when masses and other services may begin again according to the directives from civil authorities.

This decree is given by mandate
of the Most Reverend James Francis Checchio,
Bishop of Metuchen,
March 26, 2020
for the Diocese of Metuchen