



DIOCESE *of*
TRENTON

UPDATE APRIL 1, 2020

April 1, 2020

Dear PCL's,

As we are all trying to figure out our response as a Church to the faithful in our parishes, I want to make you aware of announcements from the Bishop and resources that could assist you in your response. As of today, on the advice of public health officials, Bishop David M. O'Connell, C.M., is mandating the closing of all churches and chapels in the Diocese of Trenton to the public, effective at noon, Wednesday, April 1, until further notice.

Announcements from the Bishop:

[March 26, 2020](#) and [April 1, 2020](#)

Updated resources/announcements will be updated to the Diocesan Website:

<https://dioceseoftrenton.org/catechesis>

[Family activities for Holy Week while being at home](#)

[Actividades familiares para la Semana Santa mientras están en casa](#)

Religious Education Classes: As of today's directive from Bishop closing all Churches, ALL Religious Education classes are to be cancelled until further notice.

First Holy Communions: Decisions on First Holy Communion dates are being discussed in parishes, I am advising you to discuss First Holy Communion with your Pastor. As of April 1, Bishop O'Connell has mandated that ALL Churches and Chapels are closed to the public until further notice. We do not know when this is going to be lifted. In postponing a First Holy Communion, I would be careful not to assign a new date until you have more information.

Confirmation: As of today's directive from Bishop closing all Churches until further notice, Confirmations that are currently scheduled in the next few weeks will need to be rescheduled, please choose from the two options.

Here are two scenarios:

1. If a reschedule is necessary, the celebrant that was assigned to the Confirmation needs to be contacted by the Pastor (or by his designee).! If the Bishop is scheduled for the Confirmation, please contact Grace Magee in the Office of the Bishop at gmagee@DioceseofTrenton.org.
2. A Pastor can request delegation from Bishop O'Connell to Confirm all the Confirmandi at a later date that suits the parish.! The Pastor will need to send a letter to Bishop O'Connell requesting delegation to Confirm all the Confirmandi.! The letter must be sent to Grace Magee at gmagee@dioceseoftrenton.org

Please note, I would wait to assign a new date until we know when public gatherings can resume.

In addition, any changes that are made need to be communicated to the Office of the Bishop:

Grace Magee at gmagee@DioceseofTrenton.org

Contact me anytime during this most difficult time.

+Peace in Christ

Denise Contino
Director, Department of Catechesis
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Holy Virgin of Guadalupe,

Queen of the Angels and Mother of the Americas.

We fly to you today as your beloved children.

We ask you to intercede for us with your Son,
as you did at the wedding in Cana.

Pray for us, loving Mother,

and gain for our nation and world,

and for all our families and loved ones,

the protection of your holy angels,

that we may be spared the worst of this illness.

For those already afflicted,

we ask you to obtain the grace of healing and deliverance.

Hear the cries of those who are vulnerable and fearful,

wipe away their tears and help them to trust.

In this time of trial and testing,

teach all of us in the Church to love one another and to be patient and kind.

Help us to bring the peace of Jesus to our land and to our hearts.

We come to you with confidence,

knowing that you truly are our compassionate mother,

health of the sick and cause of our joy.

Shelter us under the mantle of your protection,

keep us in the embrace of your arms,

help us always to know the love of your Son, Jesus. Amen.

U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, USCCB, Archbishop José H. Gomez.

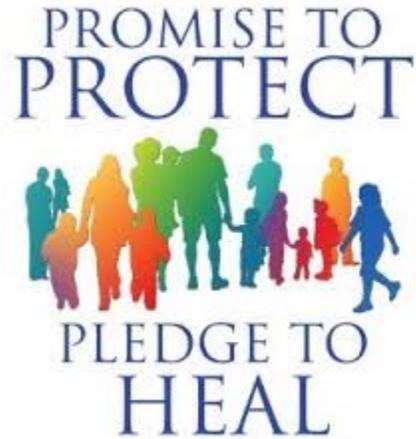
[Click here for resources from the USCCB](#)

Department of Catechesis

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