



St Raymond De Penafort

"Welcome. Love. Serve."

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April 28, 2020

Dear St. Raymond Family:

All pastors have been informed that the guidelines for sacramental celebrations issued by the Archdiocese of Chicago will remain in place until May 30, 2020 in accordance with guidelines issued by the governor of Illinois.

We appreciate your patience and cooperation with these guidelines. It is essential that we all remain united in our efforts to protect every human life. The following is a summary of the current guidelines as stated by the Vicar General of the Archdiocese of Chicago.

- All churches and adoration chapels must be closed and locked until the order is lifted by the governor. Private prayer in any parish building must be discontinued until the order is lifted.
- There can be no gatherings anywhere on parish/school property, nor can any parish personnel be involved in organizing them on any other site.
- All weddings and baptisms must be postponed and can be re-scheduled once the order is lifted. There are no exceptions to this, regardless of the size of the group. However, permission can be given for baptism in case of an extreme emergency.
- Funerals and wakes must be postponed until the order is lifted. Burials at Catholic Cemeteries may continue: however, attendance limit and social distancing requirements apply per below. There are two options for funeral celebrations:
 - (1) A funeral service, not a Mass, may take place at the funeral home the limit for attendees remains 10 people at this time (inclusive of the funeral director, priest, mourners, etc.). All attendees must practice social distancing.
 - (2) A funeral service may take place graveside at the cemetery before committal/burial. The limit for attendees remains 10 people at this time (inclusive of the funeral director, priest, mourners, etc.). All attendees must practice social distancing.
- Individual confessions are currently not possible; this includes virtual or phone confessions, which are never permissible, nor drive-thru confessions. In keeping with longstanding pastoral practice when penitents' access to the sacrament is restricted, they can be assured that their sins are forgiven if they make an act of contrition with a firm resolve to approach the Sacrament of Reconciliation after the stay-at-home order is lifted.
- Under the State of Illinois exemption for essential services, the Archdiocese of Chicago is including anointing of the sick as an essential service. However, out of an abundance of caution only a select number of priests will be allowed to administer this sacrament to any confirmed COVID-19 patients.

Peace Be With You,

Fr. Scott Hebden, Pastor