



Roman Catholic Diocese of Albany

40 North Main Avenue, Albany, New York 12203

Timely Instructions

(relative to COVID-19 pandemic and Governor Cuomo's Executive Order of 03-20-2020)

March 23, 2020

Regarding Issues of the Sacred Liturgies

A number of great questions have come in regarding what to do in various sacramental situations. Thank you for these questions and thank you, too, for your patience. As you may imagine, as we continue to develop instructions and guidelines and respond to new governmental decrees, it is difficult to think of or anticipate every situation in these trying times. As instructions and guidelines are updated, they would supplant any previous instruction or guideline relating to that particular subject.

ANOIDNTING OF THE SICK:

This may continue to be celebrated whenever a proper request comes in. As is often the case where an anointing is given to a person in isolation (for example, in a hospital), all the necessary physical contact precautions should be taken.

EUCCHARIST/MASS:

CLARIFICATION: As was given in the Timely Instructions (3/21/20), the Mass should be celebrated by the priest ALONE and not at a scheduled time. The purpose of this is to ensure that people do not gather, as well as maintaining all other health and governmental directives. However, if the Mass is being recorded or live-streamed, a few others may be present to operate the camera, provide music, proclaim readings and offer responses, etc. PROVIDED that all health and governmental directives are observed (social distance, hygiene, sanitizing, etc.).

RECONCILIATION:

As in bullet 2 of the Timely Instructions (3/21/20), individual reconciliation may be celebrated PROVIDED that all the various regulations are followed (social distance, sanitizing, NOT at scheduled times, etc.). Again, this is meant to ensure that people are not gathered as congregants.

With the express approval of Bishop Scharfenberger, given at the Chancery: March 23, 2020



*We are God's people sharing a responsibility to witness God's unconditional love
and to bring Christ's healing presence to our world.*