



# DIOCESE *of* LACROSSE

OFFICE OF THE BISHOP

17 March 2020

Dear faithful of the diocese,

May the Lord give you peace.

In light of the continued concern surrounding spreading the coronavirus COVID-19, and the advice of medical experts across the country and especially in our state, all public Masses in the Diocese of La Crosse will be canceled beginning 17 March 2020 at 5:00 p.m. until further notice. All fish fries, parish gatherings, etc. are also canceled.

**Please note, however, churches will remain open for private prayer.** I am urging the faithful to remember in their prayers all of our brothers and sisters whose personal lives and the lives of their families have been affected by this disease. Visit [diolc.org/pray](http://diolc.org/pray) to send me your personal prayer intentions.

At this point we are hopeful to resume public Mass by 1 May. As you know, these plans and regulations change every day. Nothing would give me greater pleasure than to shorten this time frame or any of these regulations. This, of course, is unprecedented in our lives and we rely on the providence of Almighty God and His Holy Mother. Please stay well and take every precaution to do so. Be aware of my prayers and my confidence in our protection under the Sacred Heart of Jesus and the Immaculate Heart of Mary.

Most Reverend William Patrick Callahan  
Bishop of La Crosse