



DECREE

Out of concern for the prevention of the spread of the coronavirus COVID-19, and following consultation with other Bishops, the College of Consultors, and the Deans, in accord with canon 838 §§1 and 4 of the *Code of Canon Law*, I previously suspended the public celebration of Masses in the Diocese of Evansville until further notice.

Now, following consultation with the Bishops of the Province of Indiana, the College of Consultors, the Council of Priests, and the Deans, and in accord with canon 838 §§1 and 4 of the *Code of Canon Law*, the above-noted prior decree is hereby emended, and I hereby decree the reinstatement of the public celebration of Masses. However, this is regulated by the particular law of the Diocese of Evansville, executive orders of the Governor of the State of Indiana, and directives from local governing entities, all in an effort to mitigate the spread of the coronavirus COVID-19. Furthermore, I hereby direct the *Guidelines for the Resumption of Public Masses* and the *Implementation Verification Form* to be followed in the Diocese of Evansville.

The dispensation which I previously granted, effective 12 March 2020, from the obligation to participate in Mass on Sundays and holy days to the faithful of the Diocese of Evansville and travelers who are present in the Diocese of Evansville remains in effect until further notice. This means that the faithful are not under an obligation and pain of sin to attend the public celebration of Mass. In fact, those who are simply uncomfortable attending the public celebration of Mass or in a vulnerable population are encouraged to pray at home, watch the online celebration of Mass, or pray the Act of Spiritual Communion.

The provisions of this decree are effective 18 May 2020, all things to the contrary notwithstanding.

Mary, Health of the Sick, pray for us!

Given at Evansville, Indiana
7 May 2020

Most Reverend Joseph M. Siegel, DD, STL
Bishop of Evansville

Tim McGuire
Chancellor