



ARCHDIOCESE OF ST. LOUIS
Office of Communications and Planning

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**Archbishop Robert J. Carlson Extends the Suspension
of All Public Masses Through April 30**

Archbishop Robert J. Carlson has extended the suspension of the public celebration of Masses—as well as his dispensation of Catholics' obligation to attend Sunday Mass in the Archdiocese of St. Louis—through April 30, 2020.

Archbishop Carlson's decision follows recommendations from health and government officials and is aligned with government prohibitions of gatherings of more than 10 people. Pending further updates on the spread of COVID-19, parishes within the Archdiocese of St. Louis will remain open for personal prayer and confessions. Parish priests will determine hours of operation, but we ask that parishioners follow the social distancing guidelines shared by health officials.

The [Cathedral Basilica of Saint Louis](#) and many other archdiocesan parishes are offering live-stream options for viewers to participate in Masses virtually. Streaming schedules and links can be found at ArchSTL.org/coronavirus.

The decisions to continue with baptisms, weddings and funerals will be made by parish pastors with the understanding that the celebrations of these sacraments are to include only immediate family members and are not to exceed government-mandated limits on group gatherings.

Many parish fish fries have been canceled; however, all fish fries that remain open are offering either drive-through or pick-up options only.

The Archdiocese of St. Louis will continue to support the needs of the greater St. Louis community through its parishes and charities. The archdiocese understands the economic impact that this emergency is having on our community as a whole. However, in times like this, it is even more urgent for us to pray for and assist our brothers and sisters who are in the most need. We encourage the faithful to consider supporting their parishes through online giving, mail-in or drop-off contributions, as well as organizations that are responding to this crisis, such as [Catholic Charities of St. Louis](#), [The Society of St. Vincent de Paul of St. Louis](#) and the [Annual Catholic Appeal](#).

Please direct questions to communications@archstl.org.

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