



ARCHDIOCESE OF ST. LOUIS  
Office of Communications and Planning

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**Update from the Archdiocese of St. Louis Regarding Coronavirus (COVID-19)**

The Most Reverend Robert J. Carlson, Archbishop of St. Louis, has just announced that all Catholics within the Archdiocese of St. Louis are dispensed from their obligation to attend Sunday Mass for the next three weekends (March 14-15, March 21-22 and March 28-29). Archbishop Carlson advised the faithful to turn to the Lord Jesus Christ to help those suffering from COVID-19 (coronavirus) and to relieve anxiety caused by its spread:

***“During this challenging time, it is important that we act prudently, but without panic. We turn to our Lord Jesus Christ and our Blessed Mother in prayer, especially for those who are sick or vulnerable, and for those who care for them. I ask you to join me in doing so with the [prayer](#) that the USCCB gave us today regarding COVID-19.”***

- **Most Reverend Robert J. Carlson  
Archbishop of St. Louis**

Churches will remain open, and Mass schedules will remain mostly unchanged, but the archdiocese urges all those who are sick, elderly or vulnerable to remain home.

Adding to the mandates Archbishop Carlson shared this week, he is now also advising the priests of the archdiocese to be aware of the recommendations regarding crowd size from the City of St. Louis (No more than 1,000 people) and St. Louis County (No more than 250 people), and to make adjustments as they can. He also encouraged priests to keep daily Masses available as they are generally not as crowded as Sunday Masses, and parishioners have space to keep adequate distances apart.

The Archdiocese of St. Louis continues to be in contact with health officials for guidance in all decisions, and reiterate to our parishes, schools and staff the importance of reviewing the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention website regularly, staying home if one is sick, following hygiene and travel guidelines from health officials, and reporting any pertinent information to the local health department. We will continue to monitor official health advisories and update directives accordingly.

Please direct questions to [communications@archstl.org](mailto:communications@archstl.org).

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