



226/2020
17 March 2020

Decree Suspending Public Worship

As diocesan administrator, and in order to protect the health and welfare of the general population as threatened by pandemic novel coronavirus CORVID-19, I hereby suspend all exercise of public worship in the Diocese of Cleveland due to the presence of grave risk to the physical health of the population of the Diocese of Cleveland and beyond. The suspension includes all acts of public worship as described in previously-issued diocesan directives (*Decree Dispensing from Sunday Obligation 220/2020, 13 March 2020*).

For the purposes of this decree, 'public' is defined as any event, which is available or advertised to the Christian faithful or to the general population. Also prohibited is any liturgy, which causes or may cause attendance in excess of the number, which may be permitted by the civil authorities. Liturgies which take place in accordance with diocesan directives (*cf. same prot n.*) are permitted provided that there is a minimal number of the faithful attending by invitation only, and with the total number in attendance not to exceed the number permitted by the civil authorities.

The suspension is effective immediately and will continue until further notice.

This suspension is to be observed in all parish churches, oratories, chapels of ease, convent chapels, and other places of worship in the Diocese of Cleveland. The public celebration of Catholic worship in non-Catholic buildings of any kind and in private homes is also prohibited.

The violation of the directives above is to be punished by a just penalty (canon 1399).

Given on this 17th day of March, 2020, at the Office of the Diocesan Administrator.



Reverend Donald P. Oleksiak
Diocesan Administrator



Reverend Daniel F. Schlegel
Vicar for Clergy/Notary