

## INTERFAITH AIRPORT CHAPELS OF CHICAGO

Chicago Midway and O'Hare International Airports

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Due to the Corona virus public health emergency, beginning Saturday, March 14 the O'Hare and Midway chapels will follow the directives issued by Government Officials and the Archdiocese of Chicago: Group Worship Services and Public celebration of Mass are suspended until further notice.

The Chapels will remain open for personal prayer 24/7. I ask that you please pray for our airport workers and travelers and their families during these uncertain and difficult times. Please also pray for health care workers and their loved ones.

Please check our website, [www.airportchapels.org](http://www.airportchapels.org) or call 773-686-2636 and press 3 for any updated information.

Know that you & your families are always in my prayers. May God bless you always,

Fr. Michael Zaniolo

Administrator, Interfaith Airport Chapels of Chicago

Roman Catholic chaplain, Chicago Airports Catholic Chaplaincy

For Your Information:

Cardinal Cupich Video Message: <https://youtu.be/g3NiLSXHk2I>

March 13, 2020 Statement of the Archdiocese:

Based on current guidelines from local public health departments, which recommend the cancellation of public gatherings involving 250 or more people, Cardinal Blase J. Cupich, archbishop of Chicago, mandated the suspension until further notice of all liturgical services effective Saturday evening with the regularly scheduled weekend services. In addition, he has mandated the closing of schools operated by the archdiocese, and to close the Pastoral Center and related agency offices until further notice.

“This was not a decision I made lightly,” said Cardinal Cupich. “The Eucharist is the source and summit of our life as Catholics. And our schools and agencies provide essential services to many thousands across Cook and Lake Counties. But, in consultation with leaders from across the archdiocese, for the sake of the safety of our students, parishioners, and all the women and men who serve the people of the archdiocese, it is clear that we must take the better part of caution in order to slow the spread of this pandemic.”

## Parish and Sacramental Practice

By exception, weddings and funerals scheduled for Saturday, March 14 may proceed observing the guidelines issued by the Governor of Illinois, limiting participation to no more than 250.

While public Mass will be suspended beginning Saturday evening, March 14, archdiocesan churches should remain open for private prayer during a timeframe best determined by each pastor. To achieve this, the archdiocese has asked pastors to coordinate limited staff presence in parishes to answer calls and perform routine maintenance with a heightened focus on disinfecting all areas of common use.

We encourage priests to celebrate Mass privately for the good of the People of God, the church and the intentions of the day.

Televised and online Masses provide opportunities for the faithful to remain connected in some way to the Sacrifice of the Mass during this difficult time. Parishes with the potential to broadcast their own Masses should do so.