

Memorandum for Distribution

From: Chancery, Diocese of Gallup

To: Pastors, Administrators and other leaders of the faithful

Date/Time: March 14, 2020 at 3:30 PM MDST

Subject: Health Update

Current Status of Disease:

The disease statistics released today from both the New Mexico and Arizona Departments of Health report several more cases of COVID-19. All are in the heavily populated areas where previous cases are known. Contact sources have been identified for nearly all. There have been no persons reported who tested positive for the disease within the geographic boundaries of the Diocese of Gallup.

Previously Scheduled Special Events:

Questions have arisen about the schedule of special events. At the present time the schedule of Confirmation will continue as planned. The celebration of other previously scheduled events for the Sacraments such as Baptism and Holy Matrimony will continue unchanged.

Religious Education – Clarification:

The previous directive for suspension of religious education sessions for children was intended to apply to routine catechetical classes. Necessary educational, planning or rehearsal sessions which are directly associated with the pending receipt of Sacraments are exempted from the general directive for children's classes.

Prayer for the Day:

Heavenly Father, thank you for your presence in the Holy Spirit to walk with us always, but especially in troubled times. We ask you to pardon the offenses of those who have died of disease and receive them into your Kingdom. + Amen.

May the Blessed Virgin Mary intercede for us and for those who have perished from viral diseases this season.

Respectfully,

Dcn. Randolph Copeland

Chancellor

Diocese of Gallup