



# Diocese of Gallup

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From: Chancery, Diocese of Gallup

To: All the Faithful and Clergy of the Diocese of Gallup

March 18, 2020- Memorial of Saint Cyril of Jerusalem

Time: 8:00 PM MDST

Subject: Updated Directives for the Diocese of Gallup

The following information and directives reflect current policies for the faithful and clergy of the Diocese of Gallup. Please continue to check the diocesan website regularly for updates on the response to the COVID-19 pandemic. Previous directives remain in force unless modified by today's announcement.

## Current Status:

The reports of cases of COVID-19 continue to increase in number in both New Mexico and Arizona, but at a lower rate than for the United States at large. There are currently two reported cases in Navajo County but otherwise the remainder of the geographic area of the Diocese of Gallup is spared.

The Government of New Mexico has ordered, effective March 19, 2020, that shopping malls, movie theaters, health clubs, casinos and spas will close. Hotels and motels are to operate at a maximum of 50% capacity. Bars, breweries, and restaurants are limited to take-out and home-delivery service. Typical office environments should limit operations.

## Directives - Additional or Changed

Please know that the staff of the Diocese of Gallup are monitoring multiple information sources to assess the situation as it develops. Restrictions will be reduced as soon as the conditions warrant. After continued assessment and prayer, +Bishop James Wall, hereby issues the following diocesan directives, effective immediately and indefinitely, pending further directions:

Everyone is urged to keep informed about the status of the COVID19 disease in their county and vicinity. **For church business operation, the guidance for businesses issued by the local authorities should be followed. The following instruction is in effect in all New Mexico and for Navajo County in Arizona. Churches in other counties of Arizona should also comply if any cases of the disease are subsequently reported in their county.** Other protective actions are left to the discretion of the Pastor or Administrator:

1. Routine operations should be curtailed to minimize contact between people. This may mean closure of the church office to the public.
2. A sign should be posted with emergency contact telephone numbers if the office is closed or hours are reduced.
3. As possible, telephones should be manned during some portion of the day to keep communication open. Answering systems need to be activated to allow for messaging.

4. Any employee at increased susceptibility for infection (over 60 years of age or medically compromised) should be released to stay home.
5. As feasible, set up arrangements for administrative employees to work from home.
6. Employees who can do their duties without interaction with the public or a lot of interaction with other employees may still work on site with due caution for distancing and good hygiene practices.
7. To the extent possible, employees should have continued pay, even if they are not allowed to work. Their duty assignment is home.
8. Charitable work should continue to the extent possible without causing undue risk to staff and volunteers or creating a gathering of too many persons.

### **Reflection and Prayer for the Day**

The current restrictions can certainly leave us feeling cramped and inconvenienced. However, our ultimate intention by our actions or restraint is to protect the well-being of others who might experience harm or death if we contribute to the spread of disease. That is a sacrificial gift.

“In His first coming, He endured the Cross, despising shame; in His second, He comes attended by a host of Angels, receiving glory. We rest not then upon His first advent only, but look also for His second.” St. Cyril of Jerusalem

*Heavenly Father, we honor your name and your plan for our salvation. Give us the strength to sacrifice ourselves for the good that you direct us to do in your name. + Amen.*

**Saint Cyril, Pray for us.**

United with you in Christ,

Deacon Randolph Copeland  
Chancellor  
Diocese of Gallup

Approved by: +James Sean Wall