



¡Ven, Holy Spirit, Ven!

Archbishop Gustavo extends to May 18 decree regarding changes impacting parishes in the archdiocese in response to COVID-19

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Archbishop Gustavo García-Siller, MSpS, has issued the following to the people of the Archdiocese of San Antonio regarding the extension of the decree given on March 31 in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

With new computer data from health authorities and civic officials indicating that the COVID-19 pandemic is most likely to reach its peak in this area from late April to mid-May, I am at this time extending my previous decree regarding the archdiocesan response to this health crisis, which was to be in effect until April 30, to a new date of May 18.

The projections regarding the impact of the pandemic which are cited in this new data are largely consistent with statewide models for Texas. With the availability for testing for COVID-19 improving, but still somewhat limited locally, it is difficult to predict when the pandemic will reach its peak here.

If circumstances dictate that the health situation is improving between now and mid-May, I will indicate if an earlier opening date might be possible, or if the decree may need to be continued.

The city of San Antonio and Bexar County are now in the fourth week of the Stay Home, Work Safe program. I know the faithful are most eager to move forward and prepare for next steps, to move past this period of isolation and closure. It is most difficult, but by following these common sense directives we are adhering to sound medical advice given to us by experts.

The precautions regarding social distancing (at least six feet between persons) and limits on crowd size (no more than 10 persons) remain in effect for all liturgies. Public celebration of Masses is suspended, and priests are greatly encouraged to livestream, or use other media, to reach out to the faithful. I am filled with gratitude at some of the ongoing efforts taking place.

I am deeply grateful for the work during these difficult circumstances undertaken by our pastors, deacons, teachers, parish staffs, Catholic Charities personnel; and many more such as medical personnel and first responders who are literally risking their lives every day to care for others.

We must always remember the most vulnerable in our community, who are at risk of everything from health challenges to homelessness to financial instability due to this crisis. I pray for you constantly. May Mary, Our Blessed Mother, Our Lady of Guadalupe, always find a home in our hearts. May she teach us new lessons, and may we have a deeper love for her at this time.