



## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### **Bishop David L. Ricken suspends all public attendance at all Masses in the diocese**

GREEN BAY, Wis. (March 17, 2020) – Bishop David L. Ricken of the Diocese of Green Bay announced today that effective Friday, March 20, 2020, ALL PUBLIC ATTENDANCE AT ALL MASSES (this includes daily and weekend Masses) in the Diocese of Green Bay is suspended indefinitely to be reviewed in mid-April.

“I have been working closely with the bishops of the state of Wisconsin and diocesan staff, as well as professionals from Catholic health care over the last week,” says Bishop Ricken. “Based on their advice, the latest directive from the CDC regarding limiting public gatherings to no more than 50 people (Fed. Gov. recommends 10 people), and after much prayer and discernment, I made the difficult decision to suspend public attendance at all Masses indefinitely to be reviewed mid-April.”

Bishop will celebrate a 30 minute Mass each Sunday during the suspension of public attendance and it will be broadcast over the local CBS affiliate, WFRV Local 5 at 10:30 a.m. Sunday Mass is also available diocesan-wide via broadcast television on ABC affiliate WBAY at 5:30 a.m. Sunday morning, and on CW14 at 8:00 am. Radio Mass is available on Relevant Radio, 1050 AM at 9 a.m. Parishes throughout the diocese are also livestreaming Mass. Check your parish website for details. As additional resources are made available, we will keep the public informed.

Daily Mass is livestreamed Monday through Friday from the campus of Relevant Radio here in Green Bay. You can access the Mass at the Relevant Radio app, or at this link <https://relevantradio.com/faith/daily-mass-video/>.

The diocese is also compiling resources to provide the faithful with spiritual support during the COVID-19 emergency. You can find resources online at [www.gbdioc.org/covid19](http://www.gbdioc.org/covid19).

We need prayer now more than ever as we traverse the unknown and make the best decisions for ourselves and our families. *“Be strong and steadfast; have no fear or dread of them, for it is the LORD, your God, who marches with you; he will never fail you or forsake you.”* Deuteronomy 31:6. May God watch over us and bless us during this national emergency.

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**Who we are:** As friends and followers of Jesus, the Catholic Diocese of Green Bay is devoted to fostering households and communities of discipleship through the mission and ministry of the Catholic Church. We are missionary disciples striving to lead all people to the Kingdom of God. Established in 1868, the diocese is composed of 324,000 Catholics in 16 counties: Brown, Calumet, Door, Florence, Forest, Kewaunee, Langlade, Manitowoc, Marinette, Menominee, Oconto, Outagamie, Shawano, Waupaca, Waushara and Winnebago.

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