

SPECIAL BULLETIN TO THE FRANCISCAN UNIVERSITY COMMUNITY  
March 16, 2020

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**Re: SPECIAL BULLETIN: Public Masses Cancelled by Ohio Bishops**

**A Cross Like No Other! Public Masses Cancelled by Ohio Bishops**

I just received the attached email from Bishop Jeffrey Monforton stating that all public Masses in the State of Ohio are to stop immediately and that Catholics are dispensed from the obligation to attend Mass.

In addition, our eucharistic procession planned for this evening has been cancelled as well as the scheduled confessions in Christ the King Chapel.

When I spoke with the bishop this afternoon, I could tell from his voice how difficult a decision this was for him and assured him of our prayers. I speak for all the friars when I say that this is the most difficult thing we have ever been asked to do. Obedience is easy when we are asked to do what we like or prefer, but this is a cross like no other. Let us who have been so blessed with the opportunity for daily Mass unite our temporary suffering now with those Catholics from countries and regions and situations where the Mass is seldom or never available.

Starting tomorrow at 12:05 p.m. we will stream daily Mass from the University at [facebook.com/franciscanuniversity](https://www.facebook.com/franciscanuniversity) for those interested in participating virtually in this. Please look for details to follow about other virtual prayer experiences to be streamed in the coming days.

Our campus chapels will remain open for prayer during their regularly scheduled hours for those who desire to use them for personal prayer.

I trust that Jesus is present in this and that he will comfort his people—and know of my prayers for you.

Come, Holy Spirit!  
Father Dave Pivonka, TOR  
President, Franciscan University