



THE BYZANTINE CATHOLIC EPARCHY OF PARMA

OFFICE OF THE BISHOP

Prot. No. 44/2020 L
March 31, 2020

DECREE

I, Bishop Milan Lach, S.J. **dispense all the faithful of the Eparchy of Parma from the obligation of attending Sunday Divine Liturgies effective today through, and including, May 3, 2020.** You are not dispensed from prayer on Sunday, the day of prayer and rest.

After the consultation of the Catholic Bishops of Ohio and respectful of the President of the United States extending his recommendations to “stay at home” until April 30, 2020, I am convinced that this is a very prudent decision at this time. Continue to abide by the laws and rulings of your particular State, County, and Municipality.

Divine services will continue to be livestreamed at <http://parma.org/live> or may be available through your parish website. All Sunday and weekday services and activities remain suspended for the public. Please know that the priests are celebrating these services privately and praying for you. Baptisms, funerals, and weddings can be celebrated with the immediate family only. Churches will be open for personal prayer only at the dedicated time by your pastor. I encourage you, however, to pray together in your homes with the prayers of our Byzantine Church.

Please continue to remember the financial needs of your particular parish at this time. If you are able to support your parish, you may mail in your contribution to your parish directly or you can ask your priest about other ways you can give.

Brothers and sisters, I know that this decision will be discouraging for many of you but I ask you to keep faith and hope during this most difficult time. Pray for those who are infected and dying from this virus in our country and throughout the world. Please also pray for the health care workers and our government, as they work to protect our lives.

Yours in Christ,

The Most Reverend Milan Lach, S.J.
Bishop of the Eparchy of Parma

Notary