

## Transcript of Bishop Persico's Message to Those Preparing for Reconciliation and First Communion during COVID-19

Hello and thank you for taking a few minutes to watch this video.

As your Bishop, I wanted to reach out to those of you who are feeling the impact of my decision to suspend Mass in the Diocese of Erie. I am especially concerned for those of you who are preparing to receive sacraments, or perhaps you are a parent or a grandparent of someone who is preparing to receive a sacrament. This was one of the hardest decisions I have ever made. I know it's difficult to wrestle with the emotions that come as a result of this decision. Even when we know it is the best way to protect everyone in the community.

To those of you who have been waiting with such joy to make your first Reconciliation or your first Communion, Jesus is looking forward to those special moments as well. It's interesting that we are in Lent a time of working on having a closer friendship with God. I want you to remember that God loves you. Your family loves you, and the whole church loves you.

Ask God and your guardian angel to help you be patient and stay joyful as you wait. We all really need that gift of joy in our lives that only you can bring. Okay?

Thank you for listening to this message, and be assured that I am praying for you every day until you receive your sacrament. God bless you.