

# Transcript of Bishop Persico's Message to Families of Those Preparing for Sacraments during COVID-19 2020

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.

I'd like to offer a word of encouragement to parents. Some of you may be expecting a child now, or perhaps you've already welcomed your child and are preparing for baptism. Others have been planning with excitement for your child to receive Reconciliation, Eucharist, or even Confirmation. Maybe you are even dealing with a significant disruption in planning for a wedding.

I recognize how disappointing it is when these special family moments have to be put on hold or changed significantly. It's heartbreaking to see your child experience disappointment. It's hard for the church too, and I want to assure you we are in it with you. Praying for you and your family with God's grace, you will be able to strengthen your children to show them, not just tell them, what it means to trust in the Lord.

Please pray for everyone who is experiencing these challenges and for the church too. We will move forward as soon as it is prudent to do so. In the meantime, we know that the family is the domestic church. There are resources just for you on our website, and we encourage you to take advantage of them in your home.

We are here for you.

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.