

Dear parishioners!

In connection with emerging questions about confession in the near future we wanted to write a few words of explanation.

*** IS THE SACRAMENTARY CONFESSION POSSIBLE IN THE CURRENT SITUATION?**

At the moment, the act of sacramental confession understood as a meeting between a priest and a penitent, beyond the danger of death (!), is not possible. As priests, we do not want to deprive anyone of the possibility of sacramental confession, but let us remember mutual responsibility. Even being a completely healthy person, who feels very well, none of us is sure that such a potential meeting would not contribute to the illness of one of the parties (e.g. transmission of the virus on ourselves). If such a situation took place, then, unfortunately, all parish priests would be isolated (quarantine due to living together in the rectory). We must be extremely careful not to endanger ourselves and others.

*** IS IT POSSIBLE TO CONFESS TO A PHONE, BY SKYPE OR OTHER MEDIA OR SOCIAL PLATFORMS?**

No, this is not possible.

*** WHY IS THIS POSSIBILITY NOT?**

For the sacrament of penance and reconciliation and its validity, the spiritual and physical presence of the penitent and the priest are required, which cannot be done using the telephone or the platforms and social media mentioned above.

Secondly, confession over the telephone, etc., would seriously expose the sacramental secret of confession to violation or breach. No one can guarantee that our confession will not be overheard. The confessor is obliged to keep the sacramental secret always and everywhere.

Thirdly, in such a situation there is a danger of manipulation by third parties, eavesdropping and recording our confession, using our sins against us, fooling the confessor and impersonating him.

* WHAT TO DO IN THIS SITUATION WHEN I CAN'T MAKE THE SACRAMENTAL PENANCE?

In this case, we are dealing with an emergency. And then both God's mercy and the Church meet us. It is enough to do an examination of conscience and arouse the act of perfect remorse, that is, not under the influence of fear of damnation, but for the love of God and for the sake of God. The act of perfect regret assumes the decision to proceed to confession as soon as the objective obstacles cease (now the obstacle is the COVID 19 pandemic). When the pandemic ceases, then you should go to confession and confess your sins. If he does not give in, we trust that God has forgiven sins in His mercy, because God never commands us to do the impossible. Perfect regret is not about intense feelings that don't have to occur.

Just knowing and knowing that my sins have violated my relationship with God. Therefore, if someone cannot confess now, he should not give in to panic, but in prayer confess his sins with trust and ask for mercy.