



March 14, 2020

Dear Parishioners,

With the already confirmed incidences of the Coronavirus in our state and the likely hood of still more incidences occurring, with the support of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, our own Archdiocesan Response Plan and out of an abundance of caution, I am implementing the following procedures at Mass effective immediately.

- 1) The Holy Water fonts have been emptied and will remain so. You are welcome to fill personal containers you bring from home with Holy Water from the silver reservoir located near the Vigil Candles in the main entryway of church. (If you are in need of a holy water container, I have placed some near the Holy Water reservoir.)
- 2) During the Our Father we will not be holding hands. I will remind you, since it is automatic for many. Instead of holding hands, I would ask that you put your hands in a folded prayer like posture.
- 3) The Sign of Peace: The priest will give the general greeting, "The peace of the Lord be with you always," and after the people's response, the musicians will immediately begin the "Lamb of God."
- 4) We will not be offering the option of the Common Cup (the chalice) at Holy Communion. Catholic doctrine is clear that receiving Holy Communion under either species is a full communion with the Eucharistic Body and Blood of Jesus.

Time and time again we have been told that frequent handwashing and the use of alcohol based hand sanitizers are the best defense against colds, flu or the coronavirus. In case you didn't know, for years, it has been our practice that Eucharistic Ministers apply hand sanitizer to their hands before and after distributing Holy Communion. It is also our practice to wash the vessels used for Mass after each time they are used.

Please, out of charity for the health of other members of the parish, if you are sick or are experiencing symptoms of sickness you are not obligated to attend Mass. Please stay home. There is no need to confess this. If you do not attend Mass, I urge you to watch it on TV, listen to it on the radio, spend some time reading and prayerfully reflecting on the Sunday Mass readings available in many publications, or on line at www.usccb.org.

Please join me in praying for those who are infected with the corona virus, or who live in fear of contracting it, and for the health care workers ministering to those who are sick, and for those who are mourning the loss of a loved one from the illness.

Prayer to St. Michael

Saint Michael, the archangel, defend us in battle, be our protection against the wickedness and snares of the devil. May God rebuke him, we humbly pray; and do thou, O Prince of the heavenly host, by the power of God, thrust into Hell Satan and all evil spirits who prowl about the world for the ruin of souls Amen.

Pope Leo XIII (1810-1903)

Thank you for your efforts to help all of us as the body of Christ to stay healthy in the face of the present situation. I appreciate your understanding and cooperation.

Sincerely in Christ,
Rev. Gary A. Mayer, Pastor