

Hello everybody,

I hope you are having a fruitful Lent. I'm reaching out to you out of my concern for your well-being, especially at this time when the Coronavirus has just been declared a "pandemic" by the World Health Organization. As a precautionary measure, I've developed these directives for us to follow until the epidemic situation improves:

1. We will not have holy water available for blessing yourself as you come into church.
2. We will not shake hands at the beginning of Mass. Please choose to acknowledge one another with a wave or a nod of your head.
3. During the Our Father, we will not hold hands. You may choose to raise your hands upward during this prayer.
4. During the Sign of Peace, please refrain from shaking hands. Instead, nod your head or wave as you wish each other peace.
5. We will not offer the Precious Blood of Christ at Communion time. The Catechism of the Catholic Church teaches that Jesus Christ is present, whole and entire, in either species. The Archdiocese grants the pastor the freedom to decide whether or not Communion should be distributed under one or both species.
6. At Communion, we ask that you only receive the Precious Body of Jesus in your hand and not on your tongue. This is for your safety as well as that of our Eucharistic ministers.

It is not my intention to create any fear or anxiety for you. These measures are being taken out of concern for your well-being at this time of crisis. Please help me to help you during this period of health uncertainty.

In Christ's Peace,

Father Loyola Amalraj,
Shared Pastor