

CORONAVIRUS DIRECTIVES

**Diocese of St. Augustine & Holy Faith Catholic Church
3/7/2020 5:02 PM**

The Diocese of St. Augustine has issued some general guidelines to assist parishes on dealing with the CORONAVIRUS issue in a reasonable but safe manner: For the most part the Diocese of St. Augustine is leaving up to the Pastor the decision to change or adapt any procedure or schedules in individual parishes.

The following is a summary of these guidelines and how we are proceeding at Holy Faith. These guidelines will be evaluated everyday according to information we receive from authoritative sources and any change will be communicated to everyone in a timely manner.

Please take a flyer with you, read it carefully, and implement all that apply to you.

We approach all these inconveniences as on-going works of love and charity as we care not only for ourselves but for the brothers and sisters around us. We remain in prayer for the safety of our nation and for the world as we live these times of threat.

**Fr. Emmanuel Pazhayapurackal, CMI
Pastor**



CORONAVIRUS GUIDELINES

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1. **ATTENDING MASS:** If you are sick or have any concerns you may be sick, stay home and do not come to Mass. It is not a sin if you do not attend Mass because you are sick. There is no need to go to confession afterwards before receiving communion.
2. **GREETING BEFORE MASS BEGINS:** Please do not shake hands, but gracefully acknowledge and welcome the person next to you. *This gesture is not part of the Mass. Holy Faith invites people to greet each other before Mass begins as one way of preparing the assembly to enter into the Sacred Mysteries with an awareness that we are worshipping as a community bonded in Christ and not just as individuals.*
3. **HOLDING HANDS AT THE LORD'S PRAYER:** We encourage people not to hold hands during the Lord's Prayer
4. **SIGN OF PEACE:** Do not shake hands or hug during the *Sign of Peace*. A small bow to the person next to you with the words "*Peace of Christ be with you*" is sufficient and the appropriate thing to do say and do. *The Sign of Peace during the Mass is not a social greeting. It is a moment in which we remind each other that the Peace of Christ is like no other, and it is Christ's peace that is our Christian mark and unity. Therefore, elbow to elbow sign, fist to fist, etc. are not the most appropriate gestures for this moment.*
5. **COMMUNION:** Holy Communion will continue to be offered under both species for the moment. It is up to the individual person to receive the *Precious Blood* or to choose not to. *We remind all Catholics that in receiving the Consecrated Host only we receive the fullness and totality of Jesus' body, blood, and divinity, the same way as when we receive the Precious Blood from the Chalice.*
6. **RECEIVING HOLY COMMUNION IN THE HAND:** Although the Church gives us the option to receive communion in the tongue or on the hand, (According to different Conferences of Bishops and Local Episcopal authority) we remind people that receiving the Sacred Host on the tongue will probably increase the chances of contamination not only for the communicant but also for those coming behind them. If you are comfortable, please consider, receiving communion on the hand as a way of minimizing any risk.