

## FROM THE DIOCESE OF ST. AUGUSTINE



### **Pastoral Considerations Regarding Mass, the Sacraments and Other Devotions for the Clergy of the Diocese of St. Augustine in Response to the Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19)**

#### **Dispensation from Sunday Mass.**

By his authority as the diocesan bishop to dispense from universal ecclesiastical laws, Bishop Estévez has indefinitely dispensed from the obligation to attend Sunday Mass three categories of people for as long as the specific condition below continues:

- All who are sick and those who are caring for them
- Those who because of age or infirmity are at higher risk for contracting the coronavirus
- Those who have been exposed to the coronavirus because of travel or other circumstances.

And to further protect public health and calm fears, Bishop Estévez has also dispensed all the Catholic faithful from the obligation to attend Sunday Mass *until the suspension of Mass is rescinded*.

#### **Parish Churches, Offices, Liturgies and Ministry Functions.**

- **Mass.**
  - All public Masses are suspended in the churches and chapels of the Diocese of St. Augustine *until further notice*. (i.e., no weekday or Sunday public Masses)
  - Priests will still offer the Sacrifice of the Mass daily (but without participation by the faithful) for the needs of the Church and the world, especially as we face the present realities of the pandemic and the Mass will be offered for the intentions of the day.

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### HOLY FAITH CATHOLIC CHURCH EDITED 24 MARCH 2020

At Holy Faith we follow the directives of our Bishop as obligated and carefully follow the CDC guidelines for safety and protection of all. Please read the following policies we have implemented:

- The suspensions include Daily and Sunday Masses, Confessions, Stations of the Cross and all public gatherings at Holy Faith.
- The Church will be open for private prayer daily from 10am to 7pm. Please use good judgment and discretion if you come to pray.
- ~~The church office will be open from 10am-3pm,~~ The Church office will be closed until further notice. Our staff is working from home for everyone's protection and safety and to comply with the 'stay at home' order in our county. Calls can be made to 352-376-5405. Please leave your message on extension 100 as that extension will be monitored every morning and during the day, and messages will be emailed or texted to the staff member who can assist with the requests. We want everyone to know that we are here to assist our parishioners and for you to know that we are reachable at all times. If the call is an urgent emergency need after hours, please call 352-491-5146.
- As safety is our top concern, we have also suspended all meetings and gatherings on the church property. Please contact the members of your ministries, and any fellow parishioners you know who may not read emails or use the internet for communications, so they too can be informed of these current policy directives.
- The bulletin will continue to be available online on our website and on our app. Please stay connected and look for detailed timely information on our website, in our E-Newsletter and at myparishapp by checking regularly. Our website is constantly being updated with current information and many resources and links for Mass, prayers, homilies, weekly intercessions and announcements, etc. Visit at least once a week for updates.
- Now is a good time to download myParish App to access your bulletin and much more. To download the app, text the word "app" to 88202. Once installed, select Holy Faith Catholic Church and access is complete. Be sure to accept notifications.
- We will continue to update you as information comes in. Of course we are following the CDC guidelines very closely.

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Please continue to pray and stay safe.  
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We will be adding information on "How to celebrate the Holy Triduum and the Easter Celebrations"

# CONFESSION

Pope Francis gives us advice when we can't make a confession with a Priest during the coronavirus pandemic.

Article on <https://cruxnow.com/vatican/2020/03> titled :

*"If you can't go to confession, take your sorrow directly to God, pope says"*

'Pope Francis said: "This is the right time, the opportune moment. An act of contrition done well, and our souls will become white like the snow," on March 20 during his livestreamed morning Mass.

'The first reading at Mass March 20 was from Hosea, and it encourages people to return to the Lord with all their hearts, recognizing their sins and letting God forgive them, the pope said in his homily.

"Return to your father who is waiting for you," the pope said. "The God of tenderness will heal us; he will heal us of the many, many wounds of life and the many ugly things we have done. Each of us has our own!" God welcomes every repentant sinner with open arms, he said. "It's like going home."

'Lent is a special time "to let God wash us, purify us, to let God embrace us," the pope said, and the best place for that is the confessional.'"

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In the video of the Mass on 20 March 2020 Pope Francis said:

"Many of you go to confession before Easter to return to the Lord. Many will say to me: But Father, how can I find a priest, a confessor, if I can't leave my house? I want to make my peace with the Lord. I want him to embrace me, I want my Heavenly Daddy to embrace me. How can I do that unless I find a priest? Do what the catechism says.\* It's very clear: If you don't find a priest to go to confession, **speak to God**. He's your Father. Tell Him the truth:

Lord, I did this and this and this. Pardon me. Ask His forgiveness with all your heart, with an act of contrition, and promise Him: Afterward I will go to confession, but forgive me now. You will return to God's grace immediately."

## ACT OF CONTRITION

My God, I am sorry for my sins with all my heart. In choosing to do wrong and failing to do good, I have sinned against you whom I should love above all things.

I firmly intend, with your help, to do penance, to sin no more, and to avoid whatever leads me to sin. Our Savior Jesus Christ suffered and died for us. In his name, my God, have mercy. Amen.

\*The Catechism of the Catholic Church, N. 1452, says: "When it arises from a love by which God is loved above all else, contrition is called 'perfect' -contrition of charity. Such contrition remits venial sins; it also obtains forgiveness of mortal sins if it includes the firm resolution to have recourse to sacramental confession as soon as possible."