

Announcements BEFORE Mass – 3/14-15/2020

ALL:

DUE TO THE GROWING CONCERNS ABOUT THE COVID-19 CORONAVIRUS and at the directives of Bishop Nickless we are taking the following pro-active and preventative measures at this time until further notice:

1. The bishop has dispensed all Catholics over age 65 and anyone, regardless of age, with underlying medical issues, from the obligation to attend Sunday Mass. Anyone who sincerely or seriously believes they are at risk or is not feeling well is also dispensed from the obligation to attend Mass.
2. Removed holy water from hand fonts and provided hand sanitizer at church entrances.
3. Greeters have been asked to refrain from shaking hands or touching parishioners and will not hand out bulletins or other materials. These materials will be available at the entrances AFTER Mass. [We do need to stay until the end of Mass and not depart until after the conclusion of the final song and the presider has departed.]
4. Removed song books and other loose materials from the pews. [Please sing along as best as possible. Please listen to the words of the scriptures as they are proclaimed and as they were meant to be heard.]
5. Ask that, if possible, you to sit with some distance between one another.
6. The collection baskets have been placed at the center of the aisle for you to place your envelopes and donations in. All envelopes will be placed in that basket, so we do are not handing the basket from person to person.
7. We have suspended the procession of the offertory gifts.

8. Please do not hold hands at any time, including during the Our Father [in fact there is no liturgical directive that requires we hold hands.]
9. Suspending the use of the Sign of Peace.
10. The Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion have been instructed to
 - a. go to the sacristy to wash their hands before and after Holy Communion
 - b. not touch anyone, if possible, during Holy Communion.
11. The bishop is strongly recommending that the Host be received in the hand as opposed to on the tongue.
 - a. Receive on an OPEN hand.
 - b. Or receive on the tongue properly.
12. Suspending the distribution of the Precious Blood during Holy Communion
13. Please do not greeting the me or others before and after Mass with handshakes or physical contact.
14. Suspended taking Holy Communion to
 - a. the nursing homes as they are closed to visitors at this time
 - b. the homebound unless it is Viaticum and the person is dying
15. We will take Holy Communion to the hospital according to their protocols.
16. The Sacraments of the Holy Eucharist, Anointing of the Sick, and Reconciliation will continue to be offered as normal.
17. We will monitor the situation daily and if schools cancel, we will likely follow suit with cancelling parish activities including Faith Formation classes in addition to the following Diocesan events that have been cancelled:
 - a. The Women's Conference on March 28th

- b. The Chrism Mass scheduled for April 2nd
- c. The Men's Conference on April 4th

18. Please check our parish website for updates which will include this information I have just presented.

19. Please pray for everyone who is ill, for our elderly, for our bishop and all our priests and deacons.

20. Again

- a. Stay calm, do not panic, and pray
- b. If you are experiencing any symptoms—please exercise your best judgment about attending Mass or parish events
- c. If you are sick, please stay home and know that you are not obligated to attend Mass when you are ill.
- d. encourage everyone to be vigilant with
 - i. the washing of hands and a regular basis
 - ii. covering your mouth with your inner elbow coughing or sneezing
 - iii. not sharing the flu or cold with others

21. Thank you for your understanding at this difficult time and know of my prayers for all of you.

22. The bishop invites all of us to seek together the maternal intercession of Our Lady of Guadalupe:

Holy Virgin of Guadalupe,
Queen of the Angels and Mother of the Americas.
We fly to you today as your beloved children.
We ask you to intercede for us with your Son,
As you did at the wedding in Cana.

Pray for us, loving Mother,
And gain for our nation and world,
And for all our families and loved ones,
The protection of your holy angels,
That we may be spared the worst of this illness.

For those already afflicted,
We ask you to obtain the grace of healing and deliverance.
Hear the cries of those who are vulnerable and fearful,
Wipe away their tears and help them to trust.

In this time of trial and testing,
Teach all of us in the Church to love one another and to be patient and kind.
Help us to bring the peace of Jesus to our land and to our hearts.

We come to you with confidence,
Knowing that you truly are our compassionate mother,
Health of the sick and cause of our joy.

Shelter us under the mantle of your protection,
Keep us in the embrace of your arms,
Help us always to know the love of your Son, Jesus. Amen.

23. Let's begin Mass...