

**Roman Catholic Diocese of Charlotte**  
**Coronavirus Guidelines for Pastors and Administrators**  
*A 30-day guide from March 13th through Holy Thursday, 2020*



### **Sunday Mass and Holy Communion**

- The obligation of the faithful to attend Sunday Mass is waived until further notice.
- The faithful are to follow the guidance of public health professionals and should refrain from attending Mass or any public space if they have been at risk of exposure or experiencing symptoms of sickness. We ask that the faithful exercise caution with due regard for themselves and their neighbor's health and well-being.
- Priests are only to offer public Masses consistent with CDC guidelines, which is currently set for less than 50 people.
- In parishes where all public Masses are canceled, priests are to offer daily Mass for their spiritual benefit and that of their parishioners.
- The norms of Mass intentions and their offerings are to be observed.
- During Mass celebrants should not extend the Sign of Peace, distribute Holy Communion from the chalice, or otherwise invite people to extend a greeting at Mass or other liturgical gatherings.
- Those wishing to receive Communion on the tongue shall go to Monsignor only.
- The manner of receiving Holy Communion is the prerogative of the communicant. Therefore, the options for the faithful during the Rite of Holy Communion are: in the hand, on the tongue, or elect to make a spiritual communion. If you wish to receive on the tongue, please only visit Monsignor's line.

### **Faith Formation and Schools**

- All classroom instruction is canceled until such time that Governor Cooper allows schools to resume on-campus instruction.

### **Parish Events and Activities**

- Non-essential activities involving more than 50 individuals are to be canceled or postponed.
- For activities involving less than 50 individuals, consideration should be given to canceling or postponing or using technology to hold virtual meetings.

### **Spiritual**

- We are committed to provide for the spiritual and pastoral needs of the faithful.
- As responsible members of the community we are committed to participate in the larger community response.
- These measures are temporary and are in no way to minimize the importance of the sacraments in the lives of the faithful.
- It is not only reasonable and responsible to comply with these temporary CDC guidelines, it is also a response to Our Lord's command to love our neighbor.
- Our temporary spiritual sacrifices are for the health and wellbeing of the physically weak and vulnerable – to keep them from contact with the virus.
- There are spiritual opportunities in every challenging situation including this one. Opportunities include:
  - greater sympathy with those throughout the world who do not have regular access to the sacraments
  - creating more space in our daily lives at home for prayer and family devotion
  - reflecting upon the things that truly matter and gain a greater sense of perspective and priorities
  - looking outside of ourselves and ask how we can help others
  - reflecting upon the interrelatedness of our lives within the community, our nation, and the world
  - focusing our gaze on Christ, the true healer of us all