

ATTENTION!! ATTENTION!! ATTENTION!!

The Coronavirus has become a worldwide concern in the last weeks. Too many have become infected & lost their lives. Countries & governments are working diligently to combat this latest disease. We need to pray for all those who have died, are sick, & all those caring for them & their families.

In the wake of this situation, all of us need to act sensibly when we are at Mass. The following is the latest, as of March 17th when this went to press, from our Bishop & Diocesan officials—

- 1) **At the Sign of Peace, we are NOT to shake hands or make physical contact with those outside our immediate family.** We may just say words of peace, nod at others, or wave, in order that you do not come into contact;
 - 2) **WE ARE SUSPENDING THE COMMUNION CUP indefinitely.** This is to “err on the side of caution.” This will protect all Communion Ministers, as well as anyone receiving.
 - 3) **Holy Water receptacles at the entrances may be emptied.**
 - 4) **Communion on the Tongue is discouraged, due to the hot breath of the communicant possibly communicating the disease. Communion in the Hand is encouraged for all. IF YOU MUST RECEIVE ON THE TONGUE, YOU ARE TO COME TO FATHER JOE & NOT A LAY MINISTER!!!!**
 - 5) **ALL COMMUNAL PENANCE SERVICES ARE CANCELED.** The pastor is to schedule more times for individual confessions.
 - 6) **ALL CONFIRMATIONS/FIRST COMMUNIONS ARE CANCELED UNTIL DEC. 31ST!**
- Once an “all clear” is given, there will be discussion on how a schedule from that point can be reestablished.

These guidelines will hopefully help us all. The situation we are in is changing by the day/moment. I will keep you informed as things progress.

THANK YOU!!!

—FATHER JOE