

Updated on Friday, March 13, 2020

Saint Ann Catholic Church, Clayton NC
Response to the Coronavirus (COVID-19)

With the reported increase in the numbers of coronavirus cases in the United States and concern growing in our local community, Saint Ann Catholic Church offers the following communication.

Bishop Zarama is waiving the obligation for the faithful to attend Sunday Mass in the Diocese of Raleigh. In order to promote safety and health in public worship among the faithful (especially people at higher risk), our parish is implementing these temporary measures at liturgy and our community gatherings.

Indications during Mass

Following the advice of Dr. Trin, of Saint Joseph Primary Care, Diocese of Raleigh, and the office of the governor of North Carolina, we have decided to take some precautionary measures to protect one another from spreading the flu and coronavirus:

1. Please avoid handshakes as you enter the church
2. Water can easily be contaminated, so we have removed the holy water from the baptismal font and the small fonts
3. In order to avoid any possible contamination during the collection, we ask you to walk in procession to the foot of the altar and place your gift in the basket. If you are unable to walk in the procession, raise your hand and the usher will present to you a basket to place your gift
4. At the sign of peace, we ask you to refrain from the handshake and recommend bowing or giving a peace sign to people near you
5. During communion, we will only offer the Body of Christ and not the cup. You may receive communion either on the tongue or on the hand. When you are receiving communion, you first bow your head as a sign of respect for the presence of the blessed sacrament, then you hold your head up straight and put out your tongue so the priest or Eucharistic minister can easily give you the host, if you are receiving by hand, do not grab the host from the priest or Eucharistic Minister, but open the palm of your hand, allow them to place to place it there. Take the host and consume immediately.

Additional Masses Beginning March 15

There will be two additional Masses on Sunday

6am Spanish

7am English

Some parts of the mass that are usually sung will be said by the community to help shorten the Mass time

Faith Formation Classes

Faith Formation classes will continue at regular hours

Events/Meetings/Activities

Events, meetings and parish activities will still continue, such as stations of the cross, ministry meetings, but any group who wants to cancel can do so at their discretion.

Lent Activities

We will still have our Lent Penance Service on March 26 at 6:30pm and our English lent Mission (March 23-25) and Spanish lent Mission (March 19-25) will still take place

Food Pantry

Food Pantry will be running on a Drive Thru system on Fridays as usual from 9am to 11am behind the parish center building. If it rains, the drive thru will take place in front of the parish center.

Words from our Bishop Luis, Diocese of Raleigh:

Please pray for each other, especially for those who are ill or afraid.

Please pray for healthcare professionals and for those whose daily lives are impacted by this situation.

Please also pray that our actions reflect to others the goodness of God and that together we can give His strength to all those who are suffering and burdened by this situation.

*****During this time we are in need of collaboration and service from everyone. Please stay tuned for updated information by visiting our parish website, Facebook pages or Diocese page*****

Parish Website: <https://st-annschurch.org/>

Diocese Page: <https://dioceseofraleigh.org/>