

Liturgical Accommodations during the COVID – 19 Pandemic

Diocese of Joliet

Effective March 17, 2020 until prudently advisable to discontinue.

Dispensation from the obligation of Sunday Mass is effective immediately.

1. The reception of Holy Communion should be by hand only...reception on tongue is temporarily suspended.
2. Reception of the Precious Blood is suspended.
3. The exchange of peace should be expressed verbally.
4. The Holy Water fonts should be emptied and not filled again. Our parishes could make the Holy Water available in containers by which parishioners could fill their own bottles.

Your cooperation with the foregoing is genuinely appreciated. While it is understood that the expected practices may be difficult for some, I assure you they are being undertaken for the common good and to significantly halt the spread of the virus.

Prayers are essential. You are encouraged to intensify the classical Lenten practice of prayer, fasting and almsgiving. Archbishop José Gomez, President of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops has composed the following, beautiful prayer to Our Lady of Guadalupe, Patroness of the Americas, for our use at this time.

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Prayer to Our Lady of Guadalupe During COVID-19 Pandemic by Archbishop José Gomez

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.