

My dear brothers and sisters, may God’s grace abide in our life and families. Amen.

As we continue to monitor COVID-19. I want to assure you of my prayers and support. This time is a moment of grace and hope and faith. As your Pastor, I want to do everything I can to support you both physically and spiritually. As such, we will be offering the following to parishioners.

* **Eucharistic Blessing** will take place after each weekend Mass starting this weekend.
* **Anointing of the Sick** will be offered after all weekday Mass starting next week.
* **The Sprinkling of Holy Water** will take place at the beginning of Mass in lieu of holy water in the fonts.

Other actions we can take to help during this time.

* **Gel In, Gel Out** - Always remember to Gel In, Gel Out when attending Mass.
* **Communion in the Hand** - In an effort to do our part to contain the spread of a new virus we are eliminating the reception of Holy Communion on the tongue. It will be given only in the hand.
* **Kiss of Peace & Our Father** - Remember to exercise good judgment and concern for others regarding coughing, sneezing, keeping surfaces clean and the shaking of hands. It is acceptable to turn and offer a sincere expression such as “peace be with you”, reverently bow, or make a peace sign with your hands.
* **Church Cleanings** will be taking place after each Mass.

These actions are being enacted out of our love and care for the most vulnerable in our midst. Please continue to monitor the Ohio Department of Health and the CDC websites as well as official communications from the diocese for more updated information in this developing public health situation. I will be praying for all of you during this time.

In the interest of good health and the safety of our parishioners, students, teachers, and parish staff, from this point forward **we are suspending ALL group meetings, including both school and parish, until further notice**. The only meetings take place on St. Mary campus are sacramental, RCIA and Baptismal preparation. PSR classes will be conducted online until further notice. Additional information will be forthcoming.

**All non-sacramental preparation events at St. Mary Parish & School have been postponed until further notice.**

* All scheduled meetings in the school have been postponed.
* All Nursing Home Masses are postponed.
* Any indoor athletics have been postponed.
* All outdoor athletics will continue.

God Bless you,

