



**DIOCESE OF BROOKLYN**  
**OFFICE OF THE VICAR GENERAL**

310 PROSPECT PARK WEST  
BROOKLYN, NEW YORK 11215

Dear Parishioners:

During this time of uncertainty surrounding the spread of the Coronavirus, the Diocese of Brooklyn is advising parishioners to take the following precautions at Mass out of an abundance of caution.

- **Holy Communion:** It is very strongly suggested that Holy Communion be received in the hand at this time. All involved in the liturgy should disinfect their hands before the distribution of Holy Communion.
- **Precious Blood:** The distribution of the Precious Blood has been suspended during this time. This policy has been in place all winter during the height of the flu season and will continue due to the Coronavirus.
- **Sign of Peace:** The priest/pastor should go from “The peace of the Lord be with you,” straight to the “Agnus Dei” which is the Lamb of God. During this time the exchange of peace with a handshake has been suspended.
- **Holy Water:** You may notice Holy water fonts may be empty. If not, you should not feel obligated to use Holy water upon entering or leaving church at this time.
- **Greetings:** It is highly recommended that you avoid a handshake when greeting the celebrant (or one another) before or after Mass.
- **Illness:** It is important that Catholics in Brooklyn and Queens use common sense when deciding whether or not to come to Mass. If you are not feeling well, you should stay home so as not to risk getting yourselves even sicker or spreading germs to others in the church.

The Diocese of Brooklyn is closely monitoring the Coronavirus and continues to maintain communications with city and state officials, as well as emergency and health officials. For information on the Coronavirus, visit the [CDC website](#).

The health and well-being of our priests, parishioners, and personnel is the top priority in any decisions being made. As we continue to adjust practices to reduce the risk of the virus in our churches, we pray for the victims who have both fallen ill and perished from the Coronavirus.

Sincerely,

*+ Raymond F. Chappetto*

Most Reverend Raymond F. Chappetto, D.D., V.G., V.E.