



## DIOCESE OF VENICE IN FLORIDA

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*Communications Department*

### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **Bishop extends precautions due to Coronavirus (COVID-19)**

**Venice** - Most Rev. Frank J. Dewane, Bishop of the Diocese of Venice in Florida offers Parishioners prayers and guidelines to minimize spreading of the Coronavirus (COVID-19) in Florida and in the United States.

In January, Bishop Dewane encouraged Parishes to temporarily discontinue to the distribution of Communion of the Precious Blood during the Mass and discouraged Parishioners from holding hands during the Our Father, and shaking of hands during the Sign of Peace, in order to minimize spreading the flu.

As the Coronavirus (COVID-19) continues to spread in the United States and including Florida, these precautions will be continued, and a new list of recommendations have been issued to Pastors and Administrators of Parishes pertaining to the reception of Holy Communion by mouth, emptying of the Holy Water fonts and exercising extra vigilance in cleaning and sanitizing frequently touched surfaces. [CLICK HERE](#) for the full Diocese of Venice response to the Coronavirus.

#### **PARISHIONER RESOURCES AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

Please follow the recommendations of the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) for hand washing, covering of the mouth when sneezing or coughing, and of course if you are not well, remain at home. A full list of CDC guidelines can be found at: <https://www.cdc.gov/>. For a link to the Florida Department of Health visit:

<http://www.floridahealth.gov/newsroom/2020/01/012420-2019-ncov.article.html>.

Lastly, if you are sick and choose to remain at home, the Diocese of Venice in Florida produces a televised Catholic Mass to fulfill your Sunday Obligation. The Mass airs on the CW at 9:30 a.m. in the Northern Deanery (Bradenton, Sarasota, Venice) and on Fox 4 at 10:30 a.m. in the Southern Deanery (Fort Myers and Naples). To check the channel for a specific cable network please visit: <https://dioceseofvenice.org/offices/offices-departments/communications/tvmass/guide/>.



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Bishop Dewane invites all to pray with him for all to remain healthy, and for those who have died or are suffering from Coronavirus (COVID-19).

#### **Pray for the Sick**

*“Almighty and Everlasting God, the eternal salvation of those who believe in You, hear us on behalf of Your servants who are sick, for whom we humbly beg the help of your mercy, so that, being restored to health, they may render thanks to you in your Church. Through Christ our Lord. Amen”*

#### **Pray for All who have Died**

*“In your hands, O Lord, we humbly entrust our brothers and sisters. In this life you embraced them with your tender love; Deliver them now from every evil and bid them eternal rest. The old order has passed away: welcome them into paradise, where there will be no sorrow, no weeping or pain, but fullness of peace and joy with your Son and the Holy Spirit forever and ever. Amen.”*