

## IMPORTANT NOTICE

### **Recommendations for the faithful and visitors of our Catholic Churches in Turkey during this time of medical contingency determined by COVID-19 (CORONAVIRUS).**

1. Washing the hands constantly with soap and water (at the entrance of the churches you will find hand sanitizer);
2. Do not speak in front of another person at a short distance. When necessary, do it one meter away;
3. Blessed water will not be used at the entrance of the church;
4. Avoid handshaking, hugging and kissing in the sign of peace (it is recommended to make a small bow by placing the hand on the heart, as a sign of peace and fraternity. Other already usual gestures are equally good: folded hands, bow);
5. The sacred Communion will be given in the hand;
6. The ministers of Communion (priests, deacons and lay ministers) wash their hands before and after the distribution of Communion;
7. Please give greater importance to church and toilet cleaning by using the appropriate disinfectant products and changing the sacristy towels very often.

***For now, churches are not expected to close, and masses and other ceremonies won't be canceled. If the Turkish Ministry of Health orders other restrictive measures, we will be ready to communicate and respect them.***

***Let us live with serenity, hope and solidarity with all the sick and those who are infected with this virus. Let us pray with faith and devotion that God the merciful Father will protect us from all evil in order to walk together and joyfully towards the Easter of the risen Christ.***

*Istanbul, Sunday, 15th of March, Year of the Lord 2020*



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