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## Parish guidelines for "church management under the epidemic of the new coronavirus"

The basic perception of the parish is as follows.

1. The epidemic of the new coronavirus does not stop suddenly even by vaccination.
2. It doesn't matter who is infected, including those who look healthy.
3. There are many elderly people in the church, and once the epidemic begins, the damage is great.
4. As long as it is a church, it is inevitable that unspecified people such as travelers from other prefectures will come and go.
5. Even if the shepherd knows the risks, he has no choice but to deal with many people in his job. However, when infected, there are enormous obstacles to pastoral and parish management.
6. Since Shikoku is separated by the sea, the influx of infected people may not be as high as in Honshu, but there are already community-acquired infections, and basic measures should not be underestimated. It is necessary to surely follow the instructions from the local governments in the area as measures against infection.
7. The largest route of infection is respiratory droplets, and it is very important to avoid singing and yelling and masking. Hand sanitizer is also effective because it can be removed by contact with articles contaminated with droplets.
8. You don't have to be overly afraid to focus on taking the obvious measures.
9. Participation in liturgy and sacraments is not an unnecessary and urgent act. For those who are afraid of illness and tend to be nervous, it also helps reduce excessive stress and prevent infection.

The Japan Catholic Bishops' Council issued the "Guidelines for Infectious Diseases in the Catholic Church in Japan" on November 1, 2020, so you may refer to it.

(Reference: <https://www.cbcj.catholic.jp/2020/11/09/21446/> )

This guideline does not match the actual situation of the Takamatsu parish due to the current epidemic of coronavirus infection. , Below are the guidelines for the parish.

### Takamatsu parish guidelines

1. Ultimately, the chief priest will decide on the measures for each parish based on the opinions of the parish council. If necessary, please consult the parish

secretariat.

2. If the number of participants is small and it can be guaranteed to avoid the three crowds (closed, dense, close), mass and church activities can be carried out normally within that range. (Is this a small parish?) Even in that case, wear a mask, stop using the holy water basin, and install rubbing alcohol for hands and fingers.
3. There are some cases where the explanation to foreigners is insufficient and the measures against infection in the parish are omitted, but the chief priest should keep this in mind. Since many people are forced to be isolated in their daily lives, they tend to be crowded and close together and allow dinner, but this is a trade-off with danger.

### **About Mass**

1. When entering the church from the outside, first disinfect with alcohol or chlorine-based disinfectant. If you can't do this, wash your hands carefully with plenty of water in the bathroom. This is to protect the attendees.
2. Mass attendees will keep a record of their name, contact information and date.
3. Priests, ministers, and congregations do not share various things in the shrine, sacristy, etc.
4. In medium-sized and larger churches, please refrain from chant; it is possible to play only the organ, or to choose a standing position and sing only the precentor when answering.
5. Donations are not collected in the mass, but are taken before and after the mass to prevent infection.
6. There is no dedication procession, and bread, wine, water, and rituals are prepared in advance at the ritual table.
7. Cover the ciborium and patena with bread with para. Charis's wine is drunk by the officiant himself, so it does not need to be covered as an infection control measure.
8. Refrain from communion by mouth, and when it is unavoidable, do it last.
9. Do not return the "Bible and Rite" or the weekly report, but be sure to bring it home.
10. During times when many people are not gathering, try to visit the Eucharist and worship the Eucharist at any time.  
If you ask the priest, you can receive the sacrament of communion and the sacrament of forgiveness at any time.
11. Each church should devise a method of paying church maintenance fees.
12. For foreigners who are speech-impaired, please explain this content repeatedly.  
If you are in a foreign country, you will inevitably lack information and often get into unnecessary troubles. In principle, all parties and dinners are prohibited in churches in Shikoku because they cannot keep the Three Cs.