

SPECIAL NOTICE

On Thursday, March 5, 2020, a communication was issued by the Office of Divine Worship of the Catholic Diocese of Toledo regarding Liturgical Celebrations and Public Health Concerns (Coronavirus/COVID-19). It has been our diocesan policy that when such a public health concern is raised, as was the case in 2010 with the H1N1 virus, it rests with the local pastor or pastoral leader to determine specific practices that will be suspended temporarily until a time that the health concern has subsided.

After considering the language of the recent diocesan communique that pastors are “strongly encouraged” to temporarily suspend certain ritual practices and after consulting with several other pastors in the diocese, I have decided to be prudential in judgement and will temporarily suspend the practice of distributing the Precious Blood from the chalice to the faithful at St. Nicholas and Holy Family Parishes. This suspension will take effect March 7 & 8, 2020 until a time that the international concern has subsided. Holy Communion will continue to be offered under one species (the Sacred Host) at all weekend and weekday Masses.

Additionally, we will temporarily suspend the practice of offering the *Sign of Peace* at all Masses. The priest-celebrant will say the prescribed formulary “The peace of the Lord be with you always” and the congregation will answer “And with your spirit”. The sung or recited *Lamb of God* will begin immediately after the people’s response. Those who have the custom of joining hands during the Lord’s Prayer are asked to use their own judgement in concern for the health of others.

We are called to be responsible stewards of our health and wellbeing. I hope you will join me in the effort to be attentive to this concern. These temporary responses to the global crisis are for a time. Let us unite ourselves in prayer for those whose lives have been effected by these recent developments.

Monsignor Singler