



Diocese of Lafayette-in-Indiana

Office of the Bishop

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Let us begin by praying for those affected by sickness and for our protection from infection and illness. With the flu season now taking place in the United States and with the advisories regarding the coronavirus/COVID-19 throughout the world, the following considerations may be utilized at the discretion of the pastor, administrator, or parish life coordinator. Most of these considerations are in direct alignment with the guidelines issued by the Archdiocese of Indianapolis.

Precautionary measures that *should* apply at this time:

- urging priests, deacons, altar servers, sacristans and extraordinary ministers of Holy Communion to practice good hygiene, washing their hands before Mass begins or even using an alcohol based anti-bacterial solution before handling the vessels and the bread and wine for set up for Mass and before and after the distribution of Holy Communion;
- suspending the use of the chalice for distribution of Holy Communion until Easter; we will reevaluate at that time and advise our recommendations;
- ensuring all vessels used at Mass, once purified, are thoroughly washed with soap and hot water after each use; and
- assuring the faithful that if they are sick or are experiencing symptoms of sickness, they are not obliged to attend Mass, and even that out of charity they ought not to attend (cf. *Catechism of the Catholic Church*, no. 2181).

Precautionary measures that *could* be applied:

- suspending the exchange of the sign of peace (or instructing that it be exchanged without physical contact – examples could include a bow of the head or a wave to others);
- suspending the holding of hands during the Lord's prayer;
- refraining from distribution of Holy Communion to the faithful via the chalice (please consider options for any parishioners with celiac disease or sensitivity);
- offering the catechetical reminder that Christ is wholly and permanently present under *both* of the consecrated species, both the bread and/or the wine;
- discontinuing the practice of touching a non-communicant for a blessing; and
- refraining from using Holy Water fonts.

Thank you for your cooperation in these matters.

United in the Heart of Jesus Christ,

+ Timothy J. Dolan