Diocesan Epidemic Response – Frequently Asked Questions
(03/12/2020)

PLEASE NOTE: These answers are based on the best information we have at this time. These answers are subject to change as new information becomes available.

For specific recommendations/directives involving schools, parish offices, and The Catholic Center, please refer to the Diocesan Epidemic Response Memo at www.cdlex.org.

For reliable and up-to-date information on the COVID-19 pandemic, visit www.kycovid19.ky.gov or call 1-800-222-5725.

Liturgical/Parish Life

Q: Will Mass be celebrated in the Diocese of Lexington on Sundays?
A: Yes. Sunday Mass will continue to be celebrated. However, Bishop John Stowe, OFM Conv., has granted a dispensation from the Sunday Mass obligation for Catholics for the weekend of March 14-15, 2020.

Q: Will daily Mass still be offered?
A: Yes. Parishes will continue to offer daily Mass.

Q: Will catechetical programs be cancelled at my parish?
A: Check with your pastor or parish life director.

Q: Can I still receive Communion on the tongue?
A: Communicants are to receive Communion in the hands; this is a temporary measure for the good of the communicant and the minister distributing communion.

Q: May I receive Communion in the species of the wine?
A: Parishes have been strongly encouraged to temporarily suspend sharing the common cup during the celebration of the Eucharist.

Q: What should I do at the Sign of Peace during the Mass?
A: Parishioners are asked to acknowledge their fellow parishioners by means other than physical contact during the sign of peace.

**Q: Should parishes empty the holy water fonts?**

A: At this time, the chancery has made no recommendation to empty holy water fonts. However, pastors and parish life directors have the discretion to do so should they deem it appropriate.

**Q: What about the offertory? My parish passes a basket down each row?**

A: Parishes are encouraged to explore alternative means of collecting the offertory. However, should this prove too burdensome, there is no prohibition to continuing to use this method.

**Q: Should “distancing” be practiced at Mass?**

A: As a further preventative precaution, parishioners are encouraged, when possible, to increase their spacing distance from fellow parishioners when attending Mass.

**Schools**

**Q: Will my school close if a case of Covid-19 is confirmed at the school even if the public schools in my county remain open?**

A: Yes. Should Covid-19 directly impact a Catholic school prior to affecting the relevant county public school, the Catholic school administrators are empowered to take all appropriate steps to safeguard students, faculty, and staff up to and including closing the school.