

**PREVENTING THE SPREAD OF ILLNESS**  
**IN THE CONTEXT OF OUR WORSHIP (REVISED)**

As previously mentioned, the Diocese of Biloxi has been monitoring the present situation. Given the susceptibility of the elderly and those with weakened immune systems to the novel coronavirus (COVID-19), the following “Illness Prevention Policy (Revised)” is to take effect immediately and continue until further notice. Other common-sense solutions are encouraged the parish level.

- Parishioners who are ill or suspect they may be contagious are not bound by the Sunday Mass obligation. They should be advised to remain at home and return to church when they are well.
  
- Hand cleaner may be provided at church entrances for the faithful.
  
- Holy Water fonts are to be drained, cleaned, and re-filled with holy water on a regular basis. The faithful can be told it is not absolutely necessary to make use of this sacramental. Other methods of providing holy water (e.g., small individual/family bottles) can be devised. Please note that old holy water should be disposed of in the sacarium or, where one is not available, on the ground.
  
- Exchanging the Sign of Peace by means of physical contact should be suspended. The sign of peace may be, e.g., verbal or with a bow to those nearby.
  
- Good hygiene, to include an inconspicuous use of hand cleaner prior to distribution of Holy Communion, should be practiced by Clergy and other Ministers.
  
- Reception of the Precious Blood from a common chalice is suspended for the time being. As the whole Christ is contained in the consecrated Host, a Priest Celebrant should ordinarily consecrate only enough wine necessary for him alone to receive the Precious Blood. If members of the congregation have celiac disease and are entirely unable to receive even the Body of Christ from consecrated ultra-low gluten altar breads, the Priest may consecrate wine in separate chalices to provide the Precious Blood for those individuals.

- While communicants retain the right to receive Holy Communion on the tongue, Pastors may encourage the faithful to receive on the hand. Ministers of Holy Communion are advised to distribute the consecrated Hosts with special care, being cautious not to touch the communicant's hand or tongue.
- Door handles/knobs, collection baskets, tops of pews, hymnals, etc. should be regularly cleaned using an appropriate cleaner.