

Local News

Diocese releases liturgical precautions addressing public health concerns

🕒 Wednesday, 11 March 2020



OND Staff Report

On Feb. 28, the Diocese of Crookston sent a memo to clergy regarding liturgical celebrations and public health concerns. The email included minimal guidelines in response to Coronavirus and Influenza. The diocese has been closely monitoring neighboring dioceses as well as reports from news and health agencies. A second **memo** with updated precautions that should be followed in each parish was sent on March 10.

The following measures will help minimize the risk to the faithful at parishes in northwest Minnesota:

- Encourage parishioners who feel ill or have flu-like symptoms to stay home. Anyone ill or caring for a sick family member is relieved of their Sunday obligation.
- Empty holy water fonts.
- Offer the Sign of Peace without physical contact.
- Refrain from holding hands during the Our Father.
- Refrain from receiving Communion from the chalice if you are ill.
- Remind Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion to use anti-bacterial hand sanitizer prior to and after distributing Holy Communion.
- Place hand sanitizer where Mass attendees can access it before receiving the Eucharist.

A petition for those suffering because of the current Coronavirus and Influenza outbreaks was also shared for use during the General Intercessions at all Masses in the coming days and weeks. Questions should be directed to Mary Dahl, Director of the Office of Worship at 218-281-4533 or mdahl@crookston.org.

