



DIOCESE OF PALM BEACH NOTIFICATION

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DIOCESE OF PALM BEACH CONTINUES TO MONITOR DEVELOPMENTS RELATED TO CORONAVIRUS

March 3, 2020

Although there are currently no known outbreaks or local infections in the area of the Diocese of Palm Beach, the diocese continues to closely monitor the developments related to coronavirus (COVID-19). Protocols for medical emergencies are reviewed and updated as necessary in compliance with the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) and the Florida Department of Health.

Please take precautionary measures to prevent the spread of respiratory infection. The CDC suggests such actions as avoid close contact with people who are sick; avoid touching your eyes, nose and mouth; stay home when you are sick; cover your cough or sneeze with a tissue, then throw the tissue in the trash; clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces using a regular household cleaning spray or wipe; and wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds.

Precautions that parishes that can employ, at the pastor's discretion, include the temporary suspension of 1) the minor chalices used for the distribution of the Precious Blood, 2) the communal Sign of Peace (kissing or shaking of hands) and, 3) the greeting before Mass. Parishes may also empty the holy water fonts at the church doors and can encourage the use of anti-bacterial soap by the Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion before and after distribution of the host. Also, parishioners may choose not to hold hands during the recitation/chanting of the Our Father. It is still left to the discretion of the communicant how they wish to receive the Host. As the distribution of Holy Communion involves contact with both the mouth and hands, any Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion who feels uncomfortable distributing Communion should be allowed to temporarily step down from ministry.

It is important to remember, if you are sick, you are encouraged to stay home. A Diocese of Palm Beach Televised Catholic Mass ministry is available for the community if you are not able to attend Mass. The Televised Catholic Mass can be found on CW34 at 10:30 a.m. every Sunday, on www.DiocesePB.org or on Facebook at @DiocesePB.

In addition, the Diocese of Palm Beach Office of Catholic Schools continues to monitor developments related to coronavirus and as always, upholds the safety of the Diocese of Palm Beach faculty, staff, students and families as a top priority. Updates regarding how coronavirus could impact the schools of the Diocese of Palm Beach can be found on www.DiocesePBSchools.org or on the Office of Catholic School's Facebook, Instagram and Twitter accounts @DoPBCatholicSchools.

The Diocese of Palm Beach will continue to address concerns related to coronavirus, including promoting awareness and initiating additional responses if necessary. Updates regarding how the COVID-19 could affect parishes and schools in the diocese can be found at www.DiocesePB.org and on the diocese's Facebook page @DiocesePB. Please also join us in praying for all those who are affected by this outbreak.

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