



OFFICE OF THE BISHOP

DIOCESE OF YOUNGSTOWN

March 3, 2020

Dear Members of the Diocese of Youngstown,

Below are a number of prudent steps that are to be taken to protect you, the faithful, at Mass and other liturgical events in light of the flu and Coronavirus. These are temporary measures that will be reviewed before Holy Week.

Effective March 7-8, the Second Sunday of Lent:

1. If you are sick, do not come to Mass. Watch it on TV.
2. Cover your mouth if you cough or sneeze at Mass or anywhere.
3. Use hand sanitizer if you cough or sneeze at Mass or anywhere.
4. Acknowledge others at the Sign of Peace without shaking hands.
5. All ministers of Holy Communion, priests and deacons and laypeople, **MUST** use hand sanitizer before distributing Holy Communion.
6. The distribution of the Precious Blood during Holy Communion is suspended. The one exception is for people who must receive from the cup due to severe cases of celiac disease.
7. If you wish to receive Holy Communion on the tongue, please be careful not to touch the minister's fingers with your tongue or mouth.
8. Intinction is not to be utilized as a means of distributing Holy Communion.
9. Holy Water fonts are to be drained or regularly cleaned and disinfected. Parishes should make available small, personal bottles of Holy Water for parishioners who want them.

Both the flu and the Coronavirus are serious health hazards. Please take all common sense steps as well as those outlined above to prevent the spread of these diseases. If you have any question, contact Father Balash at the Office of Worship: 330-744-8451.

Yours in Christ,

Bishop George V. Murry, SJ

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