



MEMO

TO: Clergy and Lay Faithful of the Diocese of Crookston

FROM: Mary Dahl – Director, Office of Worship // mdahl@crookston.org

DATE: March 10, 2020

RE: Liturgical Precautions Against COVID-19 (Coronavirus)

On Feb. 28, the Diocese of Crookston sent an email to clergy with minimal guidelines in response to the COVID-19 (Coronavirus) outbreak. We have been closely monitoring our diocesan neighbors as well as the news and health agencies' reports.

To further minimize the risk to the faithful who will encounter each other at our parishes in the northwest corner of Minnesota, these protocols should be followed:

- Stay home if you feel sick or have flu-like symptoms. You are relieved of your Sunday obligation if you are ill or are caring for someone who is sick.
- Offer the Sign of Peace without touching.
- Refrain from receiving Communion from the Chalice if you are ill.
- Refrain from handholding during the Our Father.
- Empty holy water fonts.
- Place anti-bacterial hand sanitizer where Mass attendees can access it before receiving the Eucharist.
- Remind Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion to sanitize their hands before and following distribution of the Eucharist.

We also offer this prayer to be included in the General Intercessions:

“For those affected by the coronavirus, influenza, and other illnesses; May the sick be granted a swift recovery, the medical personnel receive the support they need, and those grieving the loss of loved ones be sustained by the hope of eternal life and the care of the Church.”

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