

Changes

RISK ALERT: Coronavirus

The Cardinal, in consultation with local health authorities are suggesting the following changes as we continue to deal with the flu and the potential of the corona virus.

- The Holy Water fonts are to be drained and cleaned with a disinfecting soap each week.
- The exchange of the sign of peace is to be offered without any physical contact. If the priest celebrant chooses to extend the invitation for the sign of peace, the faithful, instead of a handshake, may bow to the persons nearby.
- Temporary suspension of distribution of communion on the tongue. For the time being Holy Communion should be received in the hand.
- Extraordinary ministers will suspend services to nursing homes and private home visits until further notice.

Parishioners who are sick, experiencing symptoms of illness, or are health compromised because of age or infirmity are "not obliged to attend mass and out of charity they ought not to attend."

A Coronavirus Prayer

by Kerry Weber an executive editor for America.

Jesus Christ, you traveled through towns and villages “curing every disease and illness.” At your command, the sick were made well.

Come to our aid now, in the midst of the global spread of the coronavirus, that we may experience your healing love.

Heal those who are sick with the virus. May they regain their strength and health through quality medical care.

Heal us from our fear, which prevents nations from working together and neighbors from helping one another.

Heal us from our pride, which can make us claim invulnerability to a disease that knows no borders.

Jesus Christ, healer of all, stay by our side in this time of uncertainty and sorrow.

Be with those who have died from the virus. May they be at rest with you in your eternal peace.

Be with the families of those who are sick or have died. As they worry and grieve, defend them from illness and despair. May they know your peace.

Be with the doctors, nurses, researchers and all medical professionals who seek to heal and help those affected and who put themselves at risk in the process. May they know your protection and peace.

Be with the leaders of all nations. Give them the foresight to act with charity and true concern for the well-being of the people they are meant to serve. Give them the wisdom to invest in long-term solutions that will help prepare for or prevent future outbreaks. May they know your peace, as they work together to achieve it on earth.

Whether we are home or abroad, surrounded by many people suffering from this illness or only a few, Jesus Christ, stay with us as we endure and mourn, persist and prepare. In place of our anxiety, give us your peace.

Jesus Christ, heal us.