

## **Archdiocese of Cincinnati 2018 Flu Season Statement**

Recently, the question about adjusting liturgical practice during the flu season has been raised. We will follow any directives of the USCCB and local/federal health authorities. We will keep parishes, schools, and agencies apprised of any changes or recommendations as they are made available to us. The USCCB Committee for Divine Worship has a general statement about liturgical practice and influenza. It can be downloaded at: <http://www.usccb.org/prayer-and-worship/sacred-art-and-music/influenza-and-the-liturgy.cfm>

The Archdiocesan Chancery Office and Office for Divine Worship and Sacraments make the following recommendations with regard to liturgical practice:

- Encourage adults and children via websites, bulletin and possibly pulpit announcements to take precautions such as frequent hand washing; remain home if they are sick; refrain from drinking from the Cup and from shaking hands at the Sign of Peace if they are not feeling well.
- Remind Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion to wash their hands before and after Mass. The use of a disinfectant may be beneficial. However, please do not create a new “rite” of purifying hands before Communion. Please be discrete about the process of using the disinfectant.
- Liturgical changes should not be made, such as withdrawing the Precious Blood or omitting the Sign of Peace, unless the Archbishop first grants permission. This permission would only be granted in serious cases.

Following are some reasons for not withdrawing the Precious Blood at this time:

- People with Celiac Disease or wheat/gluten sensitivities often communicate by drinking the Precious Blood only. Withdrawing the Cup would leave them with no option for Holy Communion.
- No one is required to drink from the Cup. Therefore, adults can make their own decision. Those who don't want to drink from the Cup do not have to, but those who choose to drink from the Cup still have the option.

Please contact the Chancery or the ODWS if you have any questions.

