Archdiocese of Cincinnati
Worship in Times of Public Health Concern - Coronavirus

In this present time of public health concern, the Archdiocese of Cincinnati has given the following guidance to parishes, schools, and other institutions about celebrations of public worship:

**General Precautions:**

- Those who are sick or experiencing symptoms of illness are not obliged to attend Mass, and out of charity towards others, should remain at home.

- Priests, deacons, and extraordinary ministers of Holy Communion should practice good hygiene, washing their hands before Mass begins or even using an alcohol-based antibacterial solution *discretely* before and after distributing Holy Communion.

- All vessels should be cleansed thoroughly after Mass with hot, soapy water.

**Specific Recommendations (Temporary, at the Discretion of the Pastor):**

- Suspend the exchange of a sign of peace (or instruct the faithful to do so without physical contact).

- Suspend the distribution of Holy Communion to the faithful via the chalice.

**Other Possible Steps:**

- Encourage the faithful to receive Holy Communion reverently in the hand, rather than on the tongue.

- Holy water stoups should be drained and refilled regularly, or left empty entirely. (Fonts with running water that is regularly sanitized are of less concern.)

- Discourage the faithful holding hands during the Our Father.

- Keep bread and wine for Mass out of public areas until right before the Preparation Rite, rather than setting it out before Mass begins.
Any other public health-related adjustments to the celebration of public liturgies (rites, scheduling, general dispensation from obligation, etc.) will be done at the direction of the Archbishop.

All are encouraged to pray for those afflicted with serious illnesses and health-care professionals. Resources for liturgical prayer in a time of public health concern can be found on the website of the Office for Divine Worship and Sacraments.

Please contact the ODWS if you have any questions.