



THE ROMAN CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF PHOENIX

Flu and Coronavirus (COVID-19) Update Diocese of Phoenix March 13, 2020

Given recent developments in the spread of the Coronavirus (COVID-19), Bishop Olmsted asks that the following precautions be implemented by all parishes. While the Arizona Department of Health Services states that the risk of contracting the Coronavirus remains low in Arizona, implementing these precautions will help slow the spread of the virus. The following precautions are mandatory and are to be implemented until further notice:

1. Encourage the following to stay home:
 - a. Those who are sick
 - b. Those considered high risk due to age or chronic health conditions
2. Distribute Holy Communion under the species of bread alone.
3. Invite communicants to receive on the hand. Where a pastor judges it appropriate to make reception on the tongue available to some, let it be done only in one specific line.
4. Eliminate the handshake at the exchange of peace.
5. Require Ordinary and Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion to sanitize hands before and after distribution.
6. Omit handholding during the Our Father.
7. Do not hold Eucharistic and other liturgies in a daily Mass chapel if there is a larger church at the parish.
8. Remove Holy Water from hand fonts.

Recommended Actions

It is also recommended that those who are greeting people before or after Mass do not shake hands but implement another appropriate gesture of greeting, such as an elbow bump or nod of head.

Those who handle the collection should do so with gloves if possible and immediately wash their hands or use hand sanitizer.

If possible, make hand sanitizers available for the faithful to use in the vestibule areas.

Include an intercessory prayer at every Mass for protection from disease and recovery for those affected. Prayers for intercessions by saints affected by various plagues include St Kateri Tekakwitha, St. Barbara, St. Rocco and St. Catherine of Alexandria.

Other Information to Assist in Communications

The Diocese of Phoenix broadcasts the Catholic Mass each Sunday at 9 a.m. on AZTV channel 7, as well as on [youtube.com/phoenixdiocese](https://www.youtube.com/phoenixdiocese) and [facebook.com/phoenixdiocese](https://www.facebook.com/phoenixdiocese). Mass is also celebrated in Spanish on Sundays at 11:30 a.m. on ESNE TV 41.3. Please invite those who are unable to go to their parish to watch the televised Masses.

The Diocese of Phoenix has provided a website where you can find the most updated information that will help keep you informed of important developments and equip you with critical information at dphx.org/StayHealthy.