



## **Pandemic Preparation Liturgical Protocol No. II for the novel coronavirus COVID-19**

March 13, 2020

Having received information on a daily basis from the Department of Health, Seniors and Active Living and having consulted the Chief Provincial Public Health Officer, Dr. Brent Roussin, the Archdiocese has decided to implement the following protocol.

This protocol is **effective immediately** and will be maintained until such time as the Archdiocese indicates that it is returning to the regular liturgical practice.

**We remind you that it is recommended that those with flu like symptoms absent themselves from the celebration of the Sunday Liturgy. No one with flu like symptoms should participate in a liturgical ministry.**

### **1. Concerning the Rite of Peace.**

The customary handshake during the sign of peace is to be substituted with a bow of the head.

### **2. Concerning the Reception of Communion.**

Communion from the chalice is to be discontinued.

The preferred method to receive communion is on the hand at this time.

The filling of additional ciboria with consecrated hosts taken from the tabernacle is to be done by the presider/deacon only. In the case where the presider/deacon has flu like symptoms and therefore is absent, then a duly prepared communion minister may fulfil this task.

Ciboria must be thoroughly cleansed with soap and water at the conclusion of each liturgy.

A priest with flu like symptoms should completely forego presiding parish masses.

### **3. Concerning Holy Water Fonts.**

Holy water fonts are to be sanitized and left empty.

The sprinkling rite, in its proper liturgical order, may be used.

#### 4. Concerning the Disinfection of Worship Space and Sacristy.

The worship space and sacristy are to be kept clean at all times. All debris e.g. tissues, etc left behind should be removed at the conclusion of each liturgy. It is the parish's responsibility to ensure that latex gloves are provided for those responsible for cleaning the worship space.

At the conclusion of each liturgy, the worship space could be disinfected with a disinfecting spray.

#### 5. Concerning Hand Sanitizing.

It is strongly suggested that hand sanitizing stations (alcohol based) should be established at each entrance of the church.

In the absence of hand sanitizers, careful hand washing procedures should be encouraged.

Those preparing the elements for communion must ensure proper personal hygiene and cleanliness.

Communion ministers must, at some discreet location, sanitize their hands before the distribution of communion.

#### 6. Parish Teams

All parishes must have a team prepared to conduct a **Sunday Liturgy of the Word and Distribution of Communion** in the event of their priest's illness.

#### 7. Concerning Visits to the Sick at Home.

Where visits to the sick for sacramental purposes and/or for pastoral care are made, good sanitary practices need to be maintained by the minister who chooses to visit. Ministers need to carry and use hand sanitizers and a mouth covering.

*For more information:*

***Daniel Bahuaud***

*Communications coordinator*

*204-594-0277, office*

*204-894-0860, cell*

[communications@archsaintboniface.ca](mailto:communications@archsaintboniface.ca)