



Office of the Bishop

Roman Catholic Diocese of Lubbock

SUMMARY OF COVID-19 (CORONAVIRUS) MEASURES IMPLEMENTED IN THE DIOCESE OF LUBBOCK

- Priests, Deacons, and Extraordinary Ministers of the Eucharist must be sure to practice good hygiene, washing their hands before Mass begins or even using an alcohol based anti-bacterial solution before distributing Holy Communion.
- All of the Catholic Faithful can be assured that if they are sick or are experiencing symptoms of sickness they are not obliged to attend Mass, and even that out of charity they ought not attend.
- Distribution of Holy Communion to the Faithful will now take place only under the species of the consecrated host. I remind the Faithful that it is the Church's teaching that the whole Christ – body, blood, soul, and divinity -- is contained under the form of either the consecrated bread or the consecrated wine. Those with Celiac Disease should consult their Pastor to make suitable arrangements to receive Holy Communion.
- The Sign of Peace is not to be exchanged in any manner during Masses in the Diocese of Lubbock for the present time.
- I beg the indulgence of our Catholic Faithful for the sake of Ministers of Holy Communion and all those receiving Holy Communion, due to the danger of contagion from contact with the tongue and/or saliva, to seriously consider the option, as an act of charity, to receive Holy Communion in the Hand during these critical days.
- I am asking that Holy Water be removed from all holy water fonts throughout the Diocese of Lubbock, unless the font has a filtered recirculating system.
- Effective immediately, the following categories of individuals are dispensed from the obligation to attend Mass on Sundays and Holy Days of Obligation (under the authority given me by Canon 1247 of the Code of Canon Law):
 - o Individuals over the age of 60.
 - o Individuals with chronic medical conditions, such as heart disease, diabetes, lung disease and cancer.
 - o Individuals with severely compromised immune systems.
 - o Mothers who are pregnant.
 - o Caretakers of the at-risk individuals listed above.

This dispensation remains in effect until I revoke it. I encourage those persons who deem it unwise to attend Mass in person to consider watching Sunday Mass at our Christ the King Cathedral, live or recorded, via the internet at CTKCathedral.org.

- I am asking parishes who have ministries to nursing homes, care facilities, and correctional institutions to work with administrators of those facilities to see if it might be possible to bring Communion to the facility and for a Catholic employee or resident to distribute Holy Communion to those Catholic residents in the facility who wish to receive the Eucharist.
- I am asking that serious consideration be given to canceling any non-sacramental gatherings of more than 50 people sponsored by parishes of the diocese or diocesan entities. I have taken the initiative to cancel some such gatherings in my own name.
- Should local school districts cancel classes, I ask that Faith Formation classes in parishes within those jurisdictions be cancelled.