

March 13, 2020

Good afternoon,

As the circumstances concerning the Coronavirus develop, Bishop Medley is continually evaluating the liturgical practices in our diocese in concern for the wellbeing of all. As of Friday afternoon, March 13 there has been no change in the plan to offer Masses in all parishes of the Diocese of Owensboro the weekend of March 14-15. Effective immediately, the below items are now **mandated** in our diocese until further notice:

- In light of the serious health risks to the most vulnerable among us, Bishop Medley has **temporarily suspended the obligation to attend Mass on Sundays** and Holy Days during the Coronavirus outbreak. Until further notice, Catholics should use their prudential judgement as to whether or not to attend Mass.
- Distribution of the Precious Blood has been **temporarily suspended**.
- The practice of receiving Communion on the tongue has been **temporarily suspended**.
- Priests, deacons, altar servers, and all serving in the liturgy must wash their hands before mass and use an alcohol-based, anti-bacterial solution before and after distributing Communion.
- Refrain from holding hands during the Lord's Prayer.
- Acknowledge the Sign of Peace without physical contact.
- Holy water fonts are to be emptied. You are encouraged, if possible, to provide small bottles of holy water for parishioners to take home with them.
- During the Good Friday liturgy, veneration of the cross should take the form of a bow instead of kissing or touching the cross.

Thank you for all you do in your parish(es) to protect the vulnerable among us. We continue to offer our prayers for all those affected by the Coronavirus.

Blessings,

Lauren Johnson

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Diocese of
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