



Roman Catholic Diocese of Saskatoon OFFICE OF THE BISHOP

123 Nelson Rd
Saskatoon SK S7S 1H1
www.rcdos.ca

Phone: 306-242-1500
Fax: 306-244-6010
Toll free: 877-661-5005



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Directives regarding Coronavirus Protocols for the Diocese of Saskatoon

Dear Clergy, Religious, & Lay Faithful of the Diocese of Saskatoon:

I am contacting you about preventative protocols to mitigate any possible spread of the COVID-19 virus, also known as the “coronavirus”. As media coverage surrounding the spread of the virus increases, there has been understandable concern among the faithful. Our diocese desires to act with responsibility and prudence for the health and well-being of all.

Thus, effective immediately, all parishes are directed to observe the following:


1. Personal contact such as the shaking of hands at the Sign of Peace is to be discontinued. A bow and spoken word of peace may serve as a replacement ritual act.
2. Holy Communion is to be distributed under the species of bread alone.
3. Pastors, deacons and extraordinary ministers of Holy Communion are to wash their hands with soap and water, or an alcohol-based sanitizer before and after distributing communion.
4. Where visits to the sick for sacramental and/ or pastoral care are made, good sanitary practices are to be maintained at all times. Any minister choosing to make such visits should make use of hand sanitizers, if possible washing with soap and water immediately before and immediately after the visit.
5. Holy Water is to be removed from church fountains.

Please note that one receives *the fullness of the body and blood of Jesus Christ* even if Holy Communion is received under one species. (See CCC #1377; 1390)

We have been coordinating with the Archdiocese of Regina to monitor the situation regularly. Depending on further information from the Saskatchewan Health Authority, further directives may be required. However, we hope and pray that these temporary directives will not be needed for too long. We ask that you continue to pray for those affected by COVID-19, and for the many health care workers and other service providers who are assisting persons directly affected by this health-care crisis.

Yours in Christ

✠ Most Reverend Mark A. Hagemoen

 In all things we are *rooted in Christ*,
in His desire to bring God's love to all peoples.