

Dear Parishioners,

In light of the increase in cases of colds and the flu over the past several weeks, and with the forecasts that this year's flu and cold season will last another 10-12 weeks, we are following the recommendations of the Archdiocesan Office of Worship by:

1. Suspending the distribution of Holy Communion from the chalice at all weekday and weekend Masses until Holy Thursday, March 29. (Recall that when one receives the Sacred Host alone, the person is receiving totally the Body and Blood, Soul and Divinity of Christ).
2. Cautioning parishioners to limit or modify their handshaking at the Sign of Peace (with a bow of the head) if necessary.
3. Encouraging those who are contagious with the cold or flu, or who are highly susceptible to illness, to remain at home during this season; the obligation to attend Holy Mass on Sunday is serious, but the Catechism also teaches that illness excuses a person from Sunday worship.
4. Asking Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion to take extra-precautionary action to sanitize their hands before distributing Holy Communion.
5. Encouraging all to check on the homebound and elderly, and inform the rectory if there is anyone who needs assistance.

Those who have been assigned as Extraordinary Ministers of Holy communion during the weekends should check with the priest before Holy Mass to find out if their service is needed.

May the Lord bless all those who are sick and those who care for the sick so that they may be restored to our community.

Pax tecum,  
Monsignor Butler