



## Office of the Bishop

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9 March 2020

Dear Pastors, Parish Staff and Parishioners,

Greetings in the Lord! Amid concerns about the COVID19 virus and its continued spread, I ask that the following procedures be put into effect for the well-being of our diocesan family:

- First and foremost, if you are ill, especially if your symptoms include a fever and cough, it is strongly advised that you stay home from Mass. A televised Sunday Mass is available from Toronto at <https://dailytvmass.com/daily-tv-mass/>
- Hand sanitizers should be available near the entrances to the church, and all those who distribute Holy Communion should disinfect their hands before Communion
- Communion from the chalice for the congregation will be suspended
- Parishioners are invited to use another gesture besides handshaking during the Sign of Peace, such as a bow or a simple verbal exchange
- It is not recommended to “hold hands” during the Lord’s Prayer
- Please empty the holy Water fonts in the church

The Diocese of Nelson continues to monitor the situation and will follow the federal and provincial health officers for their advice and guidance.

Thank you for your cooperation and for your concern for one another’s health.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

✘ Gregory J Bittman  
Bishop of Nelson