

Directives Regarding Liturgical Practices During the 2018 Flu Season

Due to the severity of the flu season, the archdiocese will be taking the following steps in regards to the celebration of Mass:

- During the Sign of Peace, instead of shaking hands or hugging, as is practiced in some parishes, simply nod your head and avoid bodily contact.
- When praying the Our Father, please do not hold hands.
- Holy Communion will not be received under both species, just the Consecrated Host, not the Chalice.
- Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion should wash their hands just prior to distribution Holy Communion. An anti-bacterial gel can be used.
- If you are sick, sneezing or coughing, it would be best for you to stay home. It is not a sin to miss Mass on Sundays if you are ill.

These directives will be revoked when the situation improves.

- Now always this time of year our nation and our Church mark the Roe v. Wade Supreme Court decision legalizing abortion on demand.
- This is, of course, one of the more controversial topics in our nation and even the world...but the Church has stood adamantly against elective abortion for her entire existence...so much so that by Church law those who procure a completed abortion are excommunicated by the act itself...because it is considered one of the gravest crimes against human life—the destruction of the totally innocent child...formed in the image of God, a child of God.
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- Fortunately, all priests are now able to absolve from that excommunication in those who are truly repentant...so if you have had, or know a Catholic who has had or procured an

abortion for someone else—paying for it, forcing a young person to it, etc.—let them know that forgiveness for the repentant awaits in the confessional.

- ...because excommunication is not meant to be a permanent sentence, but rather used to impress upon a person the extreme gravity of a sin committed, and to draw them to repentance...like Jonah drew the Ninevites.
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- Sadly, I've had many people wait until their deathbeds to tell me about abortions they've gotten or facilitated...ever a tremendous burden on their consciences for all of their lives...because they know that they had done a grievous wrong, but were too ashamed to even confess it...
- ...reminding me of the mini-series "Shogun" of several decades ago, when a Catholic woman tells the priest: *"I can only confess...that I am unworthy, even to confess."*
- Well, no sin is beyond God's grace, and I have always been relieved beyond words that they finally tell me, and do not go before God with that upon their soul.
- So if you are in this condition, don't wait, for we know neither the day nor the hour of our passing...as we saw again this week with the death of that 19-year-old Los Alamos lad in a highway accident in Colorado.

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- I've always believed that, if women's bodies were transparent, elective abortion would never have been...because seeing is believing and understanding.
 - That is why 4-D ultrasound is so effective...because they show not only the child, but the child moving...a window to the new life and innocence that the child is.

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- Tragically, the "logic" of abortion—that of subjective decision of when life begins, and what constitutes human life—is progressing, and recently I've seen stories of some supposed "ethicists" actually arguing that children up to two years old

should be able to be euthanized, because they as yet have insufficient sentience to be considered human.

- ...and as more persons become “inconvenient”, this trend will further itself...and those with mental difficulties, and perhaps even those with “wrong” ideas, religions, etc., may be considered—as they had been in the not-very-distant past—“*life unworthy of life*”.
- Already some have called for the persecution and even extermination of people who actively challenge predominate scientific theory.
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- So...if one has difficulty with the Church’s teaching on abortion, for salvation’s sake, it is only prudent that he ask himself WHY he believes he knows better than God’s Holy-Spirit-guided Church...opposed to every pope, the vast majority of theologians and all the saints who have written so vehemently against abortion in the past. Most of all, learn in greater depth WHY the Church believes as she does.

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- Let us always seek to follow Christ and His Church faithfully... because He assures us of the Church: “*When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all the truth...*” (John 16:13)...and, on the eve of His Ascension: “*...lo, I am with you always, to the close of the age.*” (Matthew 28:20)
 - Obviously, in our day to stand with the Church’s teaching can be very unpopular...but, in a way, that should give us comfort, for Jesus warned that His disciples will undergo difficulty, hatred and persecutions from the world: “*If they hated me, they will hate you,*”... but with the assurance: “*...he who endures to the end will be saved...Blessed are you...for your reward will be great in Heaven.*”

Reading 1

[Jon 3:1-5, 10](#)

The word of the LORD came to Jonah, saying:
"Set out for the great city of Nineveh,
and announce to it the message that I will tell you."
So Jonah made ready and went to Nineveh,
according to the LORD'S bidding.
Now Nineveh was an enormously large city;
it took three days to go through it.
Jonah began his journey through the city,
and had gone but a single day's walk announcing,
"Forty days more and Nineveh shall be destroyed,"
when the people of Nineveh believed God;
they proclaimed a fast
and all of them, great and small, put on sackcloth.

When God saw by their actions how they turned from their evil way,
he repented of the evil that he had threatened to do to them;
he did not carry it out.

Responsorial Psalm

[Ps 25:4-5, 6-7, 8-9](#)

R. (4a) Teach me your ways, O Lord.

Your ways, O LORD, make known to me;
teach me your paths,
Guide me in your truth and teach me,
for you are God my savior.

R. Teach me your ways, O Lord.

Remember that your compassion, O LORD,
and your love are from of old.
In your kindness remember me,
because of your goodness, O LORD.

R. Teach me your ways, O Lord.

Good and upright is the LORD;
thus he shows sinners the way.
He guides the humble to justice
and teaches the humble his way.

R. Teach me your ways, O Lord.

Reading II

[1 Cor 7:29-31](#)

I tell you, brothers and sisters, the time is running out.
From now on, let those having wives act as not having them,
those weeping as not weeping,
those rejoicing as not rejoicing,
those buying as not owning,
those using the world as not using it fully.
For the world in its present form is passing away.

Gospel

[Mk 1:14-20](#)

After John had been arrested,
Jesus came to Galilee proclaiming the gospel of God:
"This is the time of fulfillment.
The kingdom of God is at hand.
Repent, and believe in the gospel."

As he passed by the Sea of Galilee,
he saw Simon and his brother Andrew casting their nets into the sea;
they were fishermen.
Jesus said to them,
"Come after me, and I will make you fishers of men."
Then they abandoned their nets and followed him.
He walked along a little farther
and saw James, the son of Zebedee, and his brother John.
They too were in a boat mending their nets.
Then he called them.
So they left their father Zebedee in the boat
along with the hired men and followed him.