



## DIocese OF BAKER

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March 12, 2020

Dear Brother Priests of the Diocese of Baker

In response to the COVID19 Corona Virus outbreak, for this weekend and until further notice, what were formerly suggestions are now the policy of the Diocese of Baker Oregon.

- Sunday Masses will continue to be celebrated, on schedule determined by the pastor.
- All Holy Water fonts are to be drained and remain empty.
- The exchange of peace during Mass between parishioners is to be suspended.
- Communion will only be distributed under the species of bread. Only the priest and deacon will drink from the Chalice.
- There will be no passing of the collection basket from hand to hand.
  - Long handled baskets are acceptable.
  - Ushers can stand near the doors to collect before and after Mass.
  - During the offertory the faithful may come forward and place their donation in a basket set in front of the altar.
- Religious Education and other small group gatherings can continue as normal.
- It would be good to sanitize the door knobs and restrooms after each Mass.
  - In good weather the doors could be left open.

**Items to be communicated to your congregation:**

- Those whose health is fragile and those who are 60 and older, and those who feel the need to take precaution are dispensed from their Sunday Mass obligation until this crisis passes. They should be in peace with their decision to stay home on Sunday.
- Those who have cold and flu-like symptoms should avoid public gatherings and are asked to please stay home. They too are dispensed from attending Sunday Mass until this crisis passes.
- Those who will not be attending Mass are encouraged to celebrate in solidarity with their parish community by gathering as a household to read the Scriptures of the Sunday Liturgy, to pray the rosary together, and to make an act of spiritual communion.
- As the situation continues to develop, please see the Diocese of Baker website ([dioceseofbaker.org](http://dioceseofbaker.org)) for updates.

In Christ Jesus,

Most Reverend Liam Cary  
Bishop of Baker