

MOST REV. DANIEL R. JENKY, C.S.C.  
OFFICE OF THE BISHOP  
DIOCESE OF PEORIA



OFFICE OF THE BISHOP  
419 N.E. MADISON AVENUE  
PEORIA, ILLINOIS 61603  
PHONE: 309 671 1550  
FAX: 309 671 1576

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To the Pastors, Priests, Deacons, and Faithful of the Diocese of Peoria:

Once again flu season is upon us. Common sense and good pastoral care would seem to indicate that there be some temporary changes to our liturgical practice.

For the time being, communicants could be encouraged to receive the Eucharist on the hand rather than on the tongue.

According to the judgement of the Pastor, the "Kiss of Peace" and the distribution of the Precious Blood may be suspended.

Eucharistic Ministers and Sacristans should take special care to sterilize the sacred vessels after the ritual purification.

The faithful should be reminded that there is no obligation to attend Mass when one is ill. In fact, it would be better for the common good to stay home.

Eucharistic Ministers making home, nursing home, and hospital visits should take special care.

People should be kept informed and prepared but not over react. Churches are no more dangerous in the flu season than are shopping malls, banks, gas stations, restaurants, movie theaters, schools, or offices. Everywhere it is a good idea to frequently wash your hands.

When the flu outbreak subsides, parishes should resume their normal liturgical practices.

May God bless and protect you,

Sincerely yours in Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Daniel R. Jenky C.S.C." with a stylized flourish at the end.

✠Most Reverend Daniel R. Jenky, C.S.C.  
BISHOP OF PEORIA