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HOLY ASSUMPTION • CATHEDRAL OF CHRIST THE KING • ST. WILLIAM ST. ANTHONY SUPERIOR • ST. ANTHONY LAKE NEBAGAMON

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March 13, 2020

TO BE READ BEFORE EACH MASS THE WEEKEND OF MARCH 14/15

Our prayers at Mass this week are for our friends and families impacted by Influenza; and for those within our nation and around the world impacted by either Influenza or COVID-19, the novel coronavirus.

Our parishes and Cathedral School value the health and well-being of our families and our staff; and we work throughout the year to promote the health of our parish families. We recognize you may have heard in the news about the increased cases of seasonal influenza in Wisconsin this year, and about the release from the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), encouraging schools and communities to plan and respond to emerging communicable disease concerns.

We are in contact with the Douglas County Health Department and we are taking routine steps to reduce the spread of illness here at the parishes. Our custodial staff continues to complete targeted and more frequent cleaning and disinfecting of our buildings.

We recognize that the situation with COVID-19 is constantly evolving and changing and will continue to update parishioners with new information and guidance as it becomes available. The steps we are taking this weekend at all Masses include but are not limited to:

1. Bishop Powers has dispensed from the Sunday Obligation to attend Mass for anyone, who for whatever reason is afraid they might contract Covid-19. For those who elect not to attend Mass, Bishop Powers suggests you gather as family and watch Mass on television, pray the rosary, read and reflect on the readings of the day, or perform some other act of prayer or worship.

2. For those who receive the Body of Christ on the tongue, out of Christian Charity for the sake of others, Bishop Powers asks that you refrain from doing this. Out of concern for the possible spread of the virus to others, please receive in the hand.

3. We will refrain from holding hands when reciting the "Our Father", shaking hands at the sign of peace, and when entering or leaving the church. A simple nod or wave will be sufficient.

In addition, continue good hygiene practices by covering our mouth and nose when coughing or sneezing and washing hands often with soap or water for at least 20 seconds. Alcohol-based hand sanitizers are available at the entrances of church and ministers of Holy Communion should sanitize their hands before and after distributing Communion.

IF YOU ARE NOT FEELING WELL OR ARE RUNNING A FEVER, PLEASE STAY HOME. WE DO NOT WANT TO MAKE ANYONE ELSE SICK.