



THE EPISCOPAL DIOCESE OF NEVADA

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MEMORANDUM

From: The Rt. Rev. James E. Waggoner, Jr., Assisting Bishop

To: All Senior Clergy in the Diocese

March 3, 2020

Dear Friends,

The Diocesan Office has received several inquiries about how we might respond within our parishes to the concerns about the Coronavirus (COVID-19). While to date there are no known cases of the virus in Nevada, because it is so highly contagious it is wise to use both common sense methods of disease prevention, and perhaps, for a time, to take extra measures to insure the health and well-being of our parishioners.

We certainly recommend standard hygiene practices such as: urging all who handle the bread and wine made holy to wash their hands and use an alcohol based anti-bacterial solution before and after serving communion, assuring our faithful that it is appropriate – and a sign of caring for others – to stay home from church if they are sick.

And, until the virus is no longer a threat to the community, it is recommended that parishioners refrain from sharing a common cup at communion, partaking only of the bread, understanding that receiving communion in one kind is considered full and complete; a longstanding teaching and practice in our Church.

We are also encouraged to exercise caution at the passing of the peace. Offering a slight bow of the head to one another rather than shaking hands or hugging can limit the sharing of germs, and still share our intention of peacemaking.

These practices are also being adopted by other denominations within the community as a means of caring for one another.

Thank you for your understanding. Let us pray for healing for all who are impacted by this and other struggles. For any questions or comments, please contact me at bpjimw8@gmail.com.

Faithfully yours in Christ,

The Rt. Rev. James E. Waggoner, Jr.

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