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## Hygienic Measures During the Coronavirus Outbreak

March 9, 2020

Prot. 104/20 O

Dear Reverend Father: Glory to Jesus Christ!

As you are certainly aware, the global community is currently on heightened alert due to the outbreak of a coronavirus known as COVID-19. For the well being of our priests and laity I offer the following hygienic guidelines that can serve to minimize the risk of contracting a respiratory viral or bacterial disease while attending church services. Please publish these guidelines in your parish bulletin and announce them from the pulpit. These guidelines remain in effect until the situation with the coronavirus subsides.

1. If you feel sick, do not come to church. You are not morally obliged to attend the liturgy on Sundays or holy days of obligation if you are ill.
2. Avoid handshakes and hugs with your fellow parishioners in church.
3. Refrain from kissing icons or hand crosses.
4. If you need to sneeze or cough in church, use a handkerchief or your elbow to cover your mouth and nose.
5. When receiving Holy Communion, open your mouth as widely as possible and do not touch the spoon with your lips or tongue.

Thank you for your cooperation in this very important matter. If you or any members of your parish community are currently ill, please be assured of my prayers for a quick recovery. Let us pray for those who are affected with the coronavirus and remember that Christ our Savior is the healer of soul and body. I wish you a blessed continuation of the Lenten journey.

Prayerfully in Christ,

+Paul Chomnycky, OSBM  
Bishop of Stamford