



THE CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF MEMPHIS
5825 SHELBY OAKS DRIVE
MEMPHIS, TN 38134-1669
OFFICE OF COMMUNICATIONS

March 2, 2020

Dear CDOM Family,

Our Catholic Diocese of Memphis continues to closely monitor all reports on the coronavirus (COVID-19). We are keeping up-to-date on the situation and recommendations from the [Shelby County Health Department](#), [Tennessee Department of Health](#), and [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention \(CDC\)](#). As of today, there are no reported cases of the coronavirus in Tennessee.

The health and safety of our school children, teachers, employees, families and all parishioners are always of the utmost importance across our Diocese. For this reason, Bishop Talley shared a [letter](#) about Holy Communion and the “exchange of Christ’s peace” with all clergy and many others across the diocese this morning. His letter is on our CDOM website, too.

Also, as many of our parishes have already done and knowing how quickly a virus and germs can spread, here are several reminders Bishop Talley wanted us to provide everyone to share at our masses, schools, community gatherings and more:

- **Avoid close contact.**
Avoid close contact with people who are sick. When you are sick, keep your distance from others to protect them from getting sick too.
- **Stay home when you are sick.**
If possible, stay home from work, school, and errands when you are sick. This will help prevent spreading your illness to others.
- **Cover your mouth and nose.**
Cover your mouth and nose with a tissue when coughing or sneezing. It may prevent those around you from getting sick.
- **Clean your hands.**
Washing your hands often for at least 20 seconds will help protect you from germs. If soap and water are not available, use an alcohol-based hand rub.
- **Avoid touching your eyes, nose or mouth.**
Germs are often spread when a person touches something that is contaminated with germs and then touches his or her eyes, nose, or mouth.
- **Practice other good health habits.**
Clean and disinfect frequently touched surfaces at home, work or school, especially when someone is ill. Get plenty of sleep, be physically active, manage your stress, drink plenty of fluids, and eat nutritious food.
 - Our custodians are using antiviral cleaners to help disinfect public areas and frequently touched surfaces throughout our parishes.
 - Our food services team continue to reinforce existing guidelines for food safety, personal hygiene and sanitation. Additional hand sanitizer has been placed in dining areas throughout our diocese.

If you have any questions about the information provided, please let us know. Thank you and God bless.

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About Catholic Diocese of Memphis

The Catholic Diocese of Memphis was founded in 1971 and consists of 48 parishes and missions with 10 Catholic schools in four deaneries across 15 counties. The Diocese of Memphis is committed to helping the faithful encounter the living Christ through conversion, communion, service and unity. Led by Bishop David P. Talley, more than 70,000 Catholics make this diverse, vibrant, and faith-filled diocese their home. The Diocese of Memphis serves the people of West Tennessee, regardless of their religious beliefs, socio-economic status or ethnic background. Please visit us at [cdom.org](#).