



## DIocese OF OGDENSBURG

### *Department of Worship*

100 ELIZABETH STREET • P.O. BOX 369 • OGDENSBURG, NEW YORK 13669  
TELEPHONE: 315-393-2920 • FAX: 1-866-314-7296 • email: dlucia@dioogdensburg.org

The diocese has received some inquiries about precautions in church settings against influenza, including H1N1. After consultation with the Episcopal Council and examination of measures taken by Catholic dioceses in the United States and Canada, Rev. Terry R. LaValley, Diocesan Administrator, is directing all parishes of the diocese to adopt the following measures beginning immediately:

1. To suspend the shaking of hands during the sign of peace. It may be replaced by a moment of silent prayer or a simple nod of the head or a wave of the hand to one's neighbor.
2. The reception of the Precious Blood from the Communion Cups/Chalice by the lay faithful is suspended in all parishes at the present time. However, communicants who suffer from Celiac disease should be encouraged to approach their pastors to make arrangements for Holy Communion under the form of the Precious Blood.
3. It is recommended that parishioners receive Communion in the hand. Communion on the tongue does present hygienic problems during the flu season. Please note the proper way of receiving Communion in the hand is to approach the minister of Communion, bow, which may be done as the person in front of you is receiving Communion, place one hand out over the other.
4. Ministers of Communion are to make use of hand sanitizers before and after distributing Communion.
5. Pastors should change the water in the Holy Water fonts, as well as, clean the fonts on a weekly basis.
6. Hand sanitizer should be made available in churches for use by the public.

These directives remain in effect until further notice. Any questions may be directed to Rev. Douglas J. Lucia at the Office of Worship.

October 27, 2009