

Regarding the H1N1 flu virus, the following links will offer some information and points to seriously consider concerning the celebration of our liturgy here at St. Fabian and the concern and questions that many people have regarding such things as the shaking of hands and the drinking from the communion cup.

What becomes clear from not only the members of the USCCB (United States Conference of Catholic Bishops), the Archdiocese of Detroit, as well as people with medical backgrounds appears to be rather simple; use common sense. If someone feels ill with flu – please stay home. If you do not desire to shake hands with those around you – a simple gesture or greeting is most acceptable. Using your hands or sleeve or handkerchief to shield a cough or sneeze is simply plain courtesy to those seated around you.

The use of hand sanitizers is certainly beneficial, but its effectiveness is limited. Bear in mind that the door handles on the church doors and the seats in church or any money which we all touch may carry any virus for several hours after a person who is ill touches them. In short, it is impossible for us to be completely germ free but we must take simple precautions.

Ministers of the Eucharist are encouraged to wash their hands before coming to mass and assisting with communion and should likewise do the same afterwards.

Again, we need to take precautions without becoming paranoid. As we make our way through this rather confusing chapter in our lives, let's attempt to combine good common sense along with courtesy and solid medical wisdom. Together as any family, we will make our way through these complex issues and hopefully understand even more fully how interconnected we are as members of this household of God.

Fr. Brian