

THE CHURCH OF ST. PATRICK

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Serving Our Community for 150 Years

November 1, 2009

Dear Brothers and Sisters:

As the fall is deepening, we find ourselves at the threshold of flu season. In any year, we all struggle with seasonal flu in our family or around us. This year the season is more complicated with the H1N1 flu epidemic.

We encourage everyone to know everything that they can, from reputable knowledge sources, and take the steps that they need to be safe and well.

We are a worshipping community where weekly gathering for prayer brings us into contact with each other and that we are 'sharing airspace.' We want to make you aware of what we are doing to help during this time:

- The Archdiocese of Chicago has H1N1 information on their website and we encourage you to visit that site at: www.archchicago.org
- We encourage you to visit the CDC website at: www.cdc.gov
- We encourage you to visit the website for Lake County at: www.lakecountyil.gov
- During the flu season, starting now, at the Sign of Peace, you may choose not to shake hands. We ask that during the Sign of Peace, you nod and/or exchange a verbal greeting if you choose not to shake hands.
- Those who choose to avoid the cup during flu season are still making a full communion by taking the bread alone. We will not discontinue the cup as flu season will end and we generally do not alter our liturgical practice for flu seasons.
- We are asking our Eucharistic Ministers to please wash their hands right before they approach the altar at the Lamb of God, and to please refrain from shaking hands at the Sign of Peace (if they are Communion Ministers at that Mass), until the end of flu season.
- Hand sanitizer will be available on the Credence Table in back of the altar for the priest/ deacon/ any ministers who are distributing Holy Communion.

Along with the precautions we are taking, we ask that you help with the following:

- If you do not feel well, carefully evaluate whether you should be at church.
- Please do not leave used Kleenex or personal belongings in your pew after Mass.
- Please cough/ sneeze into your elbow to prevent the spread of airborne particulates.

I pray that God will help us through a Holy, Happy and Healthy winter at St. Pat's.



Reverend Patrick Cecil, Pastor

Founded 1849