



The Byzantine Catholic  
**Metropolitan Archeparchy of Pittsburgh**

Office of the Archbishop  
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URGENT INFORMATION

Dear Reverend Father,

Glory to Jesus Christ!

As you know, the global community is currently on a heightened alert due to the outbreak of a coronavirus known as COVID-19, with the World Health Organization characterizing it as a pandemic. Considering that we likewise find ourselves in the midst of the flu season, it behooves me to provide all parishes in our Archeparchy with certain hygienic guidelines to minimize the risk of contracting a respiratory viral or bacterial disease. 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 and/or the flu season ends:

- If you feel sick, please, do not come to church on Sundays, Lenten services, holy days of obligation, or other days. Sick people are not morally obliged to be in church on Sundays, Lenten services and holy days of obligation; you could instead watch or listen to a Liturgy through one of the modern means of the social media, including radio. *(See page 2)*
- Please avoid handshakes and hugs with your fellow parishioners in church.
- Discontinue venerating icons, or the cross throughout the church until we are through this situation.
- For those churches that still have the Holy Water fonts at the entrances, please empty them, sanitize the containers and discontinue their use.
- If you need to sneeze or cough in church, including when you are in the confessional, please use a tissue or other appropriate method that would not put those around you at risk.
- Should we avoid receiving Holy Communion? If you believe you are sick, or that you are in danger because of weak health, then refrain from approaching the Chalice. If you do approach to receive Holy Communion then please open your mouth as widely as possible and do not touch the spoon with your lips.

Thank you for your cooperation in this very important matter and if you or any members of your parish community(-ies) are currently ill, please, be assured of my prayers for a quick recovery. Let us pray for those who are affected with corona virus and remember that Christ our Savior is the Healer of soul and body.

Wishing you a blessed Lenten journey, I remain

Prayerfully yours in Christ,

+ *William C Skurla*

Most Reverend William C. Skurla  
Metropolitan Archbishop of Pittsburgh

*Divine Liturgy Live Streamed at various times:*

Cathedral of St. John: Saturday 5:00 p.m.

Sunday 9:00 a.m.

[www.stjohnsbyzantinecathedral.com](http://www.stjohnsbyzantinecathedral.com)

Holy Ghost, McKees Rocks: Sunday 9:00 a.m.

[www.holyghost-byzantinecatholic.org](http://www.holyghost-byzantinecatholic.org)

**WEDO Radio 810 AM**

St. John Chrysostom: Sunday 10:30 a.m.

[www.sjbcc.com](http://www.sjbcc.com)

St. Gregory Upper St Clair: Saturday 5:00 p.m.

Sunday 9:30 a.m.

[www.stgregoryusc.org](http://www.stgregoryusc.org)