



### **Guidelines for congregations in the Dioceses of Algoma and Moosonee during the Covid-19 outbreak.**

Dear friends in Christ,

As the Corona Virus continues to spread around the world numbers of dioceses and denominations are taking extra precautions for hygiene during Eucharist and at other services. While we should plan, we should not panic and ensure that parish life continues normally. New information about Covid-19 may become available and we will adjust accordingly.

In addition to the usual good hygiene practices of frequent handwashing, covering your mouth when coughing, and staying at home if you are unwell, the following guidelines will be implemented in Algoma and Moosonee:

- We will refrain from handshaking during the Peace. There are all kinds of friendly alternatives including waves, eye to eye contact, smiles, and bowing.
- At the end of worship, clergy will greet members of the congregation verbally.
- Be assured that the entire altar party will be washing their hands before the service and will use hand sanitizer before the Liturgy of the Table.
- Eucharistic Assistants will be reminded about the proper way of cleaning the chalice after each person has received the wine, and more than one purificator will be used during the distribution of communion.
- Hand sanitizer will be made available to parishioners.
- Intinction (the dipping of the bread into the wine) is disallowed. Intinction does little to avoid the spread of disease and may actually increase the spread, as the

bread or wafer spends more time in the (possibly unclean) hand before being dipped into the wine.

- Individuals should decide for themselves whether to use the common cup. It is more than acceptable to receive in 'one kind' only, or to abstain altogether and receive a blessing. Please indicate your desire to receive a blessing by crossing your arms over your chest.
- Keep in mind parishioners who have compromised immune systems and may choose to self-isolate themselves during the outbreak. Remember to stay in touch with them.

For your prayers:

*“Holy and gracious God, give us strength to meet the health crisis growing in our world. Enlighten researchers that they may discover the right vaccine against this disease. Bring together agencies around the world that they may work together to eradicate this health crisis. Guide the doctors and nurses and all medical staff working with those who are infected that they may be protected as they care for their patients. We pray for those who are ill or isolated because of this virus, that they may know your love and care as it comes to them through human hands. We pray also for those who have died and for the bereaved that they will know the consolation of your love. Keep us mindful of our responsibilities during this time of anxiety and enable us to do all we can in our homes, churches and communities to alleviate the risk of spreading the virus. All this we ask through Jesus Christ our Saviour. Amen”*

*(Excerpts from Episcopal Church – Diocese of Virginia)*

With the assurance of my prayers,

*+ Anne*

The Most Rev. Anne Germond  
Archbishop of Algoma and Moosonee