



Diocese of Altoona-Johnstown

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MEDIA ADVISORY

Precious Blood to be Restored Beginning on Palm Sunday Weekend

(HOLLIDAYSBURG, PA) – With the worst of the flu season behind us, the Most Rev. Mark L. Barchak, Bishop of the Diocese of Altoona-Johnstown, has directed parishes to once again offer the Precious Blood at Mass beginning on Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord – the weekend of April 8 and 9, 2017. The faithful may also return to the regular manner of exchanging the Sign of Peace at that time.

In January, Bishop Barchak directed parishes to not offer the Precious Blood after being advised by public health officials that reported cases of the flu and other contagious viruses were a serious concern at that time. Individuals were also asked to refrain from shaking hands during the Sign of Peace.

It is the belief of the Catholic Church that the whole Body of Christ is present under either form of consecrated bread and wine. The fullness of the sign of the Eucharist is eating and drinking the Body and Blood of the Lord Jesus. All Catholics are given the option to receive the chalice containing the consecrated Blood of the Lord.