

Communion of the Sick

Procedures and guidelines for parishioners who take Holy Communion to Homebound Family Members/Friends

Prayer for Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion

Lord Jesus Christ, You are the Word of God and Bread of Life.

Help me to bring your gospel message and Eucharistic Presence to others.

Help me to do so with faith and reverence, with love and concern.

May I carry out this sacred ministry comfortably, but not casually, relaxed, yet with awesome respect.

All praise to You, the God who is, Who was, and Who is to come at the end of ages.

Amen.

Guidelines for Taking Communion to the Homebound

- ♦ Carry the host in a pyx (small metal container, specifically for this purpose). Pyxes can be purchased at most religious supply stores at a reasonable cost.
- ♦ Go directly from church to the home or location of the person who will receive the Eucharist. It is not appropriate to go to breakfast or to go shopping on the way. You should maintain the proper reverence to the Eucharist by silence in your vehicle.
- ♦ Immediately consume any hosts that are not distributed to a person. Do not carry hosts around or store them at home.
- ♦ Follow the procedures and prayers outlined in these guidelines.
- ♦ Purify the pyx to ensure that any crumbs left from the host do not remain. You may put water in the pyx and consume the water, or you may immerse the pyx in a glass of water and consume the water.
- ♦ The one-hour fast before receiving Communion is not required for the sick or homebound. Family members, however should abide by the one-hour fast.

Communion in Ordinary Circumstances

Greeting

The minister greets the sick person and the others present.

Minister: Peace be with this house and all who live here.

ALL: And also with you.

Penitential Rite

Presider: My brothers and sisters, let us turn with confidence to the Lord and ask his forgiveness for all our sins.

After a brief period of silence, the penitential rite continues:

Minister: Lord Jesus, you healed the sick: Lord, have mercy.

ALL: Lord, have mercy.

Minister: Lord Jesus, you forgave sinners: Christ, have mercy.

ALL: Christ, have mercy.

Minister: Lord Jesus, you give us yourself to heal us and bring us strength: Lord, have mercy.

ALL: Lord, have mercy.

The minister concludes the penitential rite with the following:

Minister: May almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us our sins, and bring us to everlasting life.

ALL: Amen.



Liturgy of the Word

Minister: A reading from the holy Gospel according to John
"I am the living bread that came down from heaven; whoever eats this bread will live forever; and the bread that I will give is my flesh for the life of the world." *John 6:51*

OR

Jesus said to them, "Amen, amen, I say to you, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink his blood, you do not have life within you. Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood has eternal life and I will raise him on the last day. For my flesh is true food, and my blood is true drink. Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood remains in me and I in him. Just as the living Father sent me and I have life because of the Father, so also the one who feeds on me will have life because of me. This is the bread that came down from heaven. Unlike your ancestors who ate and still died, whoever eats this bread will live forever." *John 6:53-58*



Minister: The Gospel of the Lord.
All: Amen.

Liturgy of Holy Communion

The minister introduces the Lord's Prayer:

Minister: And now let us pray with confidence to the Father in the words our Savior gave us:
All: Our Father...deliver us from evil. Amen.

The minister shows the Eucharist to those present.

Minister: Behold the Lamb of God, behold him who takes away the sins of the world. Blessed are those called to the supper of the Lamb.
All: Lord, I am not worthy that you should enter under my roof, but only say the word and my soul shall be healed.

The minister raises the host in front of the sick person and says:

Minister: The body of Christ.
Recipient: Amen.

Then a brief period of silence may be observed.



Prayer after Communion

Minister: Let us pray.
All powerful and living God, may the body and blood of Christ your son be for our brother/sister (name) a lasting remedy for body and soul. We ask this through Christ our Lord.
All: Amen.

Concluding Rite

The lay minister invokes God's blessing and makes the sign of the cross on himself/herself, while saying:

Minister: May the almighty and merciful God bless and protect us, in the name of the Father, and Son and the Holy Spirit.
All: Amen.

To those who are homebound or in the hospital today :

The love of God and the prayers of our parish family are with you even though you can't be present at Mass today. When you are unable to attend Mass, please know that we miss you and pray for your restoration of health and hope. Please pray for us as you unite your suffering to the cross of Jesus, Our Lord. We look forward to your return to Mass and the fellowship of one another joined together and uplifted by the beauty, presence, love, and strength of the Holy Spirit.