



COMMUNION VISITS TO THOSE WHO ARE HOMEBOUND DURING A TIME OF PANDEMIC

The faithful who are ill are deprived of their rightful and accustomed place in the Eucharistic community. In bringing communion to them the Minister of Communion represents Christ and manifests faith and charity on behalf of the whole community toward those who cannot be present at the Eucharist. For the sick the reception of communion is not only a privilege but also a sign of support and concern shown by the Christian community for its members who are ill. Pastoral Care for the Sick, Chapter 3, Nos. 72-73.

During this time of heightened caution about the spread of the Corona Virus, extra safety precautions must be followed.

- Extraordinary Ministers of the Eucharist aged 65 or older, with an underlying condition, or a compromised immune system should not be making Communion calls to the homebound without prior consultation with their doctor.
- Maintain social distance with everyone in the room so as to offer comfort without making physical contact.
- Wash or sanitize your hands with soap and warm water or hand sanitizer before you enter the home and then the room.
- Preliminary prayers and readings should be done at a distance.
- Holy Communion is to be distributed in the hand and only to the homebound person. Do not touch the hand of the person when distributing Communion and step back to the socially distant space immediately.
- Sanitize your hands with soap and warm water after the visit.
- After administering the sacrament, use bleach wipes or soap and water for the sanitizing of all supplies.
- Consecutive visits from home to home are not permitted.
- All clothing should be laundered upon return to home.