



Parishioner Guidelines for the Distribution of Holy Communion Outside the Mass during the Coronavirus Pandemic

- It is important to remember no Catholic is required to receive Holy Communion during the pandemic. Permission is for those who desire to receive Holy Communion and can safely do so. Those age 65 or above and those with compromised immunity are encouraged to stay home.
- In Christian Charity, anyone with a fever, cough or flulike symptoms should remain at home so as to prevent further spread of the illness. Those wishing to enter to receive the Blessed Sacrament will have their temperature taken to ensure they are not running a fever, and all are required to wear a protective mask, observe social distancing and practice proper hand washing hygiene.
- Prior to receiving Holy Communion, communicants are strongly encouraged to watch an online Mass, listen to a radio Mass, or read the Scripture readings of the day as preparation to receive Holy Communion.
- The time-frame for offering Holy Communion may be adapted to local circumstances, however for now it must remain on Saturday after 4pm and on Sunday following livestreaming of the Mass until further notice.
- No more than nine people may be gathered at any one time in one room.
- All parishes will carefully observe civil law and public health guidelines. Social distancing will be strictly enforced.
- Only the Precious Body will be distributed. Low-gluten hosts will be available for those persons in need.
- Those who receive in the hand should consume their consecrated host in the presence of the minister. Those who receive on the tongue are asked to open their mouths wide and tilt the head back slightly.
- Consecrated hosts may not be taken outside of the church during this time.
- Only up to eight persons and the distributing minister may be in the church at one time, which includes any usher directing the Communion line. Markings on the floor will indicate six feet apart to preserve social distancing for the Communion line.
- Communicants are expected to wear masks which may be removed or adjusted for the reception of Holy Communion. The priest or other minister must also wear a mask. Hand hygiene is effective against the coronavirus, and therefore, gloves are not needed if the priest or minister and the communicant perform proper hand hygiene.
- Those queued outside the church doors should maintain 6-foot social distancing between communicants who are not related or living together.
- Doors will be propped open to eliminate contact. Hand sanitizer will be available and used as people enter and exit the church.
- Communicants are asked to receive Holy Communion at their usual parishes. If a parish is unable to offer Holy Communion, the pastor may want to collaborate with a nearby parish.
- The communicants may not stop or stay in the church prior to or after receiving Holy Communion. They should exit the church immediately after receiving Holy Communion. Communicants should not linger or socialize in the parking lot, but go immediately to their vehicle. Personal prayer may take place in their cars or at home.
- Parishes will determine how best to communicate and order this process and which hours they will offer Holy Communion within the suggested times. The organized, public distribution and reception of Holy Communion described here should not occur on other days of the week in order to decrease the risk as well as to honor Sunday as the Lord's Day.

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