

## Distribution of Holy Communion to the Sick

1. Extraordinary ministers who take Holy Communion to the sick and infirm should be trained for the special requirements of this ministry.
2. In administering Holy Communion to the sick, extraordinary ministers are to follow exactly the rite of *Administration of Holy Communion to the Sick by an Extraordinary Minister* that is found in *Holy Communion and Worship of the Eucharist Outside Mass*.
3. The Eucharist that is taken to the sick is to be carried in a pyx (which should be placed in a burse, if possible) and carried on the minister's person with utmost reverence. Extraordinary ministers while bearing the Eucharist should as far as possible keep silence, pray, and be especially mindful of the sacred responsibility that has been entrusted to them.
4. A pyx should always be blessed before being used for the first time.
5. Before Mass, please go to the sacristy and write down your name and the number of hosts you need on the post-it note, place it on the tray and put a pyx on top of it. If you want to use a burse, please take one at that time.
6. After the announcements, the priest will call you forward. Go to the foot of the sanctuary, bow to the altar, and stand together at the bottom of the steps facing him. He will give you your pyx, say a brief prayer over all of you and then give you a blessing. At the end of this blessing, bow to the altar and immediately leave the church to make your visits. You do not wait for the final blessing of the Mass or sing the last hymn.
7. **Errands such as shopping or activities like dining out are not to be done by the extraordinary ministers while bearing the Blessed Sacrament. Nor is the Eucharist ever to be reserved in the minister's house for distribution at a later time or date. The Eucharist must be borne directly from the Church to the house or institution of the sick without interruption. If you are early to make a visit, simply wait in your car with the hosts in silence in prayer.**
8. **During your visit, you may do your visiting first and give Communion last, or vice versa.**
9. **In the final blessing extraordinary ministers say "bless us" and make the sign of the cross on themselves. They do not say "bless you."**
10. **After each use, the pyx should be purified (water poured into it and consumed) and then washed and dried.** Any pyx used for the carrying of the Eucharist to the sick should be purified according to the custom for sacred vessels. Return the pyx to the church when it is open next.
11. Visitation of the sick should be so planned that, even when an extraordinary minister takes Holy Communion to the sick more frequently, a priest will visit the sick person at least once a month and be available for the Sacrament of Penance.
12. Priests should be available at all times for the administration of the Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick to those who are seriously ill. Extraordinary Ministers should advise the priest of any wish of the sick to receive Penance and raise with him the question of Anointing.
13. If you are distributing Communion during a weekday not in conjunction with a Mass, and there is no clergy to retrieve the Blessed Sacrament for you, you may still go to the tabernacle yourself. Please refrain from talking while in front of the tabernacle.

## Short Rite of Communion of the Sick

The minister begins with the sign of the cross.

**In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.**

The sick person answers:

Amen.

The minister leads the Our Father:

**Our Father . . .**

The minister shows the Holy Eucharist saying:

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.**

The sick person and any other communicants say once:

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 goes to the/each sick person and, showing the sacrament, says:

**The Body of Christ.**

The sick person answers:

Amen.

and receives communion.

The rite is concluded with a prayer.

**God our Father, almighty and eternal,  
we confidently call upon you  
that the body of Christ  
which our brother (sister) has received  
may bring him (her) lasting health of mind and body.  
We ask this through Christ our Lord.**

The sick person(s) answer(s):

Amen.

A minister who is not a priest or deacon invokes God's blessing and makes the sign of the cross on himself or herself, while saying:

**May the Lord bless us,  
protect us from all evil,  
and bring us to everlasting life.**

R. Amen.