



OFFICE OF SACRED LITURGY * DIOCESE OF BIRMINGHAM IN ALABAMA

P.O. Box 12047 * Birmingham, AL 35202 * 205-838-8322 * sacredliturgy@bhmdiocese.org

Revised for 2022

GUIDELINES FOR THE WEEKDAY CELEBRATION of the RITE FOR DISTRIBUTING HOLY COMMUNION OUTSIDE MASS with a CELEBRATION OF THE WORD

1. Whenever possible, daily **Mass** should be celebrated in each parish church or in a church in a cluster of parishes. Therefore, a “Communion service” should not be scheduled as *a regular part* of any parish’s weekly schedule.
2. Circumstances in which the **Rite for Distributing Holy Communion Outside Mass with a Celebration of the Word** should be used include:
 1. The Pastoral Care of the Sick (homebound or in a hospital)
 2. Ministry to persons in prisons or jails.
 3. Ministry to persons in Nursing Homes or other care facilities

In these instances, the proper ritual for the Liturgy of the Word with Distribution of Holy Communion is found on pg. 19 in ***Holy Communion and Worship of the Eucharist Outside Mass*** and is to be followed. The specialized provisions of *Sunday Celebrations in the Absence of a Priest* are not appropriate to weekday celebrations.

3. Whenever Daily Mass is not possible, the Mass schedule of nearby parishes should be posted serious consideration given to encouraging people to participate in that Mass.
4. The Liturgy of the Hours or a Service of the Word is the appropriate liturgical celebration when Mass is not able to be celebrated.
5. However, in situations where it is foreseen that the priest will be absent for longer than a month, and where it would prove difficult for a supply priest to provide for daily Mass or for parishioners to travel to another church for daily Mass, a pastor may request that a Deacon celebrate the Rite for Distributing Holy Communion Outside Mass with a Celebration of the Word no more than once a week during the absence of the priest.