

Our Lady of Lourdes Parish Plan

Distribution of Holy Communion to the Sick/Homebound

June 9, 2020

Parish leadership has defined a set of guidelines to follow. Everyone's health and safety are of the utmost importance. Effective immediately and until further notice:

- All requests for Holy Communion for those unable to attend Mass should be made by contacting the Parish Office Center at 922-0715 or via email to parish@lourdes.org.
- Each request will be evaluated and best practices will be observed to ensure safety of both the Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion (EMsHC) and the sick/homebound. **For safety purposes at this time, during the COVID-19 pandemic, the EMHC selected will be a close relative or friend that is residing in the same household.**
- No EMHC should attend Mass or distribute Holy Communion if ill. The following are symptoms of COVID-19: cough, shortness of breath or difficulty breathing, fever, chills, muscle pain, sore throat, new loss of taste or smell.

Obtaining Hosts for Distribution of Holy Communion to the Sick at Mass:

- EMsHC should arrive early, prior to the beginning of Mass, and proceed to the sacristy door (*please do not enter the sacristy*).
- Each EMHC will give a sanitized pyx to the priest or sacristan along with the number of Hosts needed. (Pyxes can be purchased either online, local church supply stores or selected from a limited supply on hand in the sacristy.)
- The priest or sacristan will take special sanitary precautions (utilizing hand sanitizer) prior to placing hosts in the pyxes. Opened pyxes will then be placed on a sanitized pewter tray and placed on the altar along with other vessels prior to the beginning of Mass.
- The pyxes will remain on the altar until the end of Mass. After the closing hymn has finished, each EMHC should approach the altar reverently, take their pyx directly from the pewter tray located on the end of the altar, and then go directly to visit the sick.

Visit guidelines include the following steps:

- It will be necessary for each EMHC to ensure that no one in the household is currently displaying any symptoms of COVID-19: cough, shortness of breath or difficulty breathing, fever, chills, muscle pain, sore throat, new loss of taste or smell.
- The EMHC must wear a mask at all times as well as the participants, except when receiving Communion or if the mask would be too restricting due to health reasons.
- Take special sanitary precautions (utilizing hand sanitizer) prior to, during and after the visit as warranted.
- Maintain 6-foot spacing from others outside your own family at all times except when distributing Communion.
- The EMHC will follow the document *Administration of Holy Communion to the Sick by an EMHC*. This document will be made available for use through the parish website as an online resource at www.lourdes.org/Sacraments/Eucharist or can be printed out as needed. Please discard or recycle printed copies after each visit for proper sanitary precautions.
- EMsHC will ensure all Hosts and particles of Host are consumed during the visit.
- Each EMHC will then sanitize the pyx using hot soapy water at their home after the visit.

Please know that we will review these guidelines regularly and may make modifications. Thank you for your cooperation in keeping everyone healthy and safe.