

Pandemic Liturgical Guidelines: Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion

While we are all eager to resume our lives, we must be aware that restrictions remain in effect in our communities in order to prevent the up-curve of the coronavirus, which would lead again to quarantine and closures. As we resume Mass, guidelines will be more restrictive. We pray that as time progresses we can gradually lessen them until they go away.

1. If you are caring for someone who is ill, immune compromised (i.e. someone with cancer, HIV, lupus, or any autoimmune disease), or you are immune compromised you should refrain at this time from serving in this or any other ministry. Your ministry at this time is caring for that person, or for yourself. While you may be disappointed, this sacrifice is necessary and our Lord is asking this of you at this time.
2. It is important that you take your temperature prior to leaving home when you are scheduled to serve as a Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion. If it is elevated, and/or you are feeling ill you should stay home. Do not come to church. While you may feel guilty about not being able to serve, imagine how it would feel to know that someone got ill because of you! It is greater service to stay home and let your parish know that you are ill instead of risking your and others health.
3. Before coming into church, make sure to sanitize your hands and place on a mask. Then follow the usual protocols for ministering as an Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion at your parish. Make sure to follow all the rules of social distancing (no hugs, no handshakes and staying at least 6 feet away from another person).
4. Sit in a pew that is as close as possible to the sanctuary. At this time, we are simplifying the liturgical procession and need to keep the sanctuary space as open as possible.
5. When it is time to distribute Holy Communion, remove gloves (if used), and use face masks. Prior to entering the sanctuary, use hand sanitizer.
6. The cup will not be used until further notice.
7. Make note of the Communion stations as they may have changed to accommodate social distancing.
8. Sanitization stations should be set up at each Communion station. There should be a small table with a corporal, ablution cup, and hand sanitizer placed upon it.
9. When distributing Holy Communion, if you should touch a hand or a tongue, stop, put your ciborium on the corporal, dip your fingers in the ablution cup, and sanitize your hands.
10. There is no need to sanitize after each communicant.
11. Following distribution, return your ciborium to the celebrant and sanitize your hands.

