

As always, pastors/administrators/pastoral leaders are encouraged to contact their local county public health department with any specific health-related questions.

SOLEMNITY OF THE MOST HOLY BODY AND BLOOD OF CHRIST

As we prepare to celebrate this great feast and reverence our Lord, truly present in all his fullness, in the Most Holy Eucharist, let us beg Christ to feed us with what we need in order to conform our lives to model him and to heal in us that which separates us from his merciful love.

It is left to the prudent discretion of the pastor/administrator/pastoral leader whether to exercise the option of including a Eucharistic procession at the conclusion of the liturgy this particular weekend. At a time when so many of our communities are experiencing division and distress, what a powerful witness it would be to process with our Lord, truly present in the Most Blessed Sacrament, who is the source of all unity and peace. Another option to consider is exposing the Most Blessed Sacrament on the altar at the conclusion of a designated Mass for a Holy Hour concluding with Benediction. I encourage all parishes, especially those who may not have done so in the past, to prayerfully consider either option. May our Lord, who promised to be with us always, strengthen and comfort us during these uncertain times for he said,

"In the world you will have trouble, but take courage, I have conquered the world" (Jn. 16: 33).

1 Although each of the faithful always has the right to receive Holy Communion on the tongue, at his choice, if any communicant should wish to receive the Sacrament in the hand, in areas where the Bishops' Conference with the *recognitio* of the Apostolic See has given permission, the sacred host is to be administered to him or her. However, special care should be taken to ensure that the host is consumed by the communicant in the presence of the minister, so that no one goes away carrying the Eucharistic species in his hand. If there is a risk of profanation, then Holy Communion should not be given in the hand to the faithful (*Redemptionis Sacramentum*, no. 92).

The guidelines issued in the May 8, 2020 memorandum remain in effect, along with the following clarifications, until the now extended date of September 1, 2020, unless you are notified beforehand of any amendment, revocation, or continuance. **The faithful continue to be dispensed from their obligation to attend Sunday Mass until further notice. Those who are elderly, sick, or in a high-risk category are strongly encouraged to refrain from attending Mass.**

DISTRIBUTION AND RECEPTION OF THE SACRED HOST IN HOLY COMMUNION

Holy Communion is to be distributed at the usual time during Mass and is not to be distributed following the conclusion of the Sacred Liturgy as the faithful depart the church or to anyone in the parking lot. The pastor/administrator/pastoral leader can best decide the most efficient manner of distributing the Sacred Host during the Communion Rite.

Holy Communion is taken to the sick or homebound only by a priest at this time. Arrangements are to be made with the parish priest when scheduling a sick call visit. Once Governor DeWine opens nursing home facilities to inside public visitation, Holy Communion can be taken to those in homes, facilities, and institutions. Kindly request any minister in the Communion line, holding a pyx and requesting Hosts, to speak with the priest celebrant after Mass in order that he can remind them of this temporary protocol.

A communicant who desires to receive the Sacred Host on the tongue is not to be denied this legitimate option. The universal norm is to receive the Sacred Host on the tongue whereas permission was granted to the United States in May 1977 allowing for the option of receiving the Sacred Host in the hand.¹

MATRIMONY

The pastor/administrator/pastoral leader, in consultation with the wedding couple and the celebrant of the wedding liturgy, is to determine the seating capacity (not to exceed 50% of the church's capacity) for the celebration with due diligence given to proper social distancing.

While processions are discouraged during this time, it is pastorally prudent seriously to consider a bride's request to walk down the aisle at the beginning of the liturgy. The congregation may be directed to sit at least six feet from the center aisle allowing the bride to enter safely and the wedding couple to depart safely at the end of the celebration.

The pastor/administrator/pastoral leader, in consultation with the wedding couple and the celebrant of the wedding liturgy, is to determine guidelines for the use of face masks/coverings. While it is still strongly recommended, pastoral care and sensitivity should be extended to the wedding couple as well as to the celebrant in regards to face masks/coverings.

FUNERAL LITURGIES

The pastor/administrator/pastoral leader, in consultation with the immediate family and the celebrant of the funeral liturgy, is to determine the seating capacity (not to exceed 50% of the church's capacity) for the celebration with due diligence given to proper social distancing

The pastor/administrator/pastoral leader, in consultation with the immediate family and the celebrant of the funeral liturgy, is to determine guidelines for the use of face masks/coverings. While it is still strongly recommended, pastoral care and sensitivity should be extended to the immediate family as well as to the celebrant in regards to face masks/coverings.