



Phase 3.1: Restoration of the Distribution of Holy Communion during the Communion Rite of Mass

With the discussion surrounding Bishop Gruss' extension of the "Dispensation for Attending Mass," we likewise reconsidered restoring the distribution of Holy Communion to its proper place during the celebration of the Mass -- which many of you have expressed the desire to do so.

This may be implemented once the pastoral leadership: (1) catechizes your parishioners as to this modification (from how it is presently prescribed according to the *Liturgical Guidelines and Protocols* previously issued for the "Resumption of Public Mass" after the celebration of Mass); (2) carefully selects and trains any additional Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion (EMHC) - if needed; and (3) explains in detail the new protocols for distribution of Holy Communion to the assembly (outlined below).

Distribution of Holy Communion during the Communion Rite of the Mass

NB: All other *Liturgical Guidelines and Protocols for the Resumption of Public Mass* are not to be altered and all remain in effect with the exception of the options listed below.

After the priest-presider receives the Body and Blood of Christ, he then goes to a side table, dons a face covering, purifies his hands with hand sanitizer, and then returns to the altar to begin distribution of Holy Communion. Any assisting ministers – deacon(s) or EMHC receive first and then they, too, go to a side table, don a face covering, purify their hands, return to the altar to receive their own ciborium from the priest-presider, and then attend to their designated station and/or area.

- NB:**
- (1) Holy Communion is not to be distributed with gloves – nor received in the hand if someone is wearing gloves.
 - (2) Those faithful who desire to receive Holy Communion on the tongue should wait to remove their face covering just prior to the arrival of the Holy Communion Minister and replace it immediately after receiving.

(3) If you have not already done so, you might consider using 1 ½ inch hosts for consecration for a safe and more hygienic distribution of Holy Communion – with less chance of touching a communicant’s hand or tongue.

(4) Special provisions for those in need of a low-gluten host should receive particular consideration from pastors or directors of parish life.

Option A:

- A Minister of Hospitality (Usher) may dismiss each household and/or individual to come forward for Holy Communion – one household/individual at a time.
- ***Do not rush ... take it slow.***
- If there is more than one household member waiting to receive Holy Communion, ensure that a social distancing is maintained.
- The faithful receive Holy Communion in the customary way.
- As per the present guidelines, a small table is to be placed at each Communion station, with an unfolded corporal and a bottle of hand sanitizer (should the need arise for the Minister of Holy Communion to sanitize his/her hands).

Option B:

- With every-other pew empty (or if your parish has chairs arranged throughout the worship space), Holy Communion may be distributed by utilizing the empty pew (or the spacing around the placement of chairs) whereby the Ministers of Holy Communion will come to each individual and distribute Holy Communion.
- ***Do not rush ... take it slow.***
- In this case, it is recommended that additional Ministers of Holy Communion may be needed to assist. Each EMHC is to be carefully selected (according to the non-risk age group) and specifically trained for these circumstances.
- Small tables should to be placed throughout the worship space, with an unfolded corporal and a bottle of hand sanitizer (should the need arise for the Minister of Holy Communion to sanitize his/her hands).

NB: At the conclusion of the distribution of Holy Communion (either Option A or B), the remaining hosts are returned to the altar, the EMHC sanitize their hands, and the priest (or deacon) reserves the Blessed Sacrament in the tabernacle.

Further Clarifications

1. A pastor, parochial administrator, pastoral administrator or director of parish life may choose to keep the present practice of distribution according to the guidelines and protocols if they deem pastorally appropriate.
2. During the upcoming Assembly of Priests we will be able to address any questions and/or concerns regarding the celebration of Mass during this time of COVID-19 restrictions.
3. The “official” Rite of ***Sunday Celebrations in the Absence of a Priest*** [SCAP] is permitted at a Vigil, Sunday or Holy Day Mass only in the case of emergency (and reported to the Bishop of Saginaw as soon as possible afterwards).
4. The “official” Rite of ***Distributing Holy Communion Outside of Mass within a Celebration of the Word*** is presently suspended at this time (according to our present Guidelines and Protocols during our COVID-19 pandemic). However, further discussion on the restoration of this ritual is currently in process.
5. Some have inquired about the distribution of Holy Communion within parishioners’ homes or nursing homes and/or care facilities. This continues not to be permitted at this time (due to the violation of the principles of social distancing and COVID-19 prevention).
6. Holy Communion may be taken by a member of the same household to someone not able to attend Mass with the permission and prior arrangements with the pastor, pastoral administrator or director of parish life. Each request is to be carefully and pastorally evaluated. When permission is granted, the individual taking Holy Communion to his/her home must be properly trained in the reverence and care due to Our Lord in the Blessed Sacrament, as well as in carrying out the ***Rite of Distributing Holy Communion Outside Mass*** (which can be found on the diocesan website under the Office of Liturgy). By way of reminder, the consecrated host is to be transported only in a pyx and is to be celebrated immediately upon arrival at their home. The filling of the pyx and dismissal of the individual should take place after the celebration of the Mass (without any public recognition).

Recommendations

- † Parishes might consider “practicing” either Option A or B during weekday Masses in order to “master” the new process for the distribution of Holy Communion (before the larger number of communicants at a Vigil or Sunday Mass).
- † Parishes might consider spending some time prior to Mass to offer some catechesis and instructions for the restoration of the distribution to its normal place within the Mass, as well as to offer some practical, pastoral advice as to how to do so within the guidelines of the COVID-19 pandemic.



UPDATED

**Reference Guide for Restoration of Public Masses for Phase II & III
of Diocesan Guidelines & Protocols
(with the Distribution of Holy Communion at its Proper Place)
Office of Liturgy + September 15, 2020 + Memorial of Our Lady of Sorrows**

General Reminders

† **No Processional/Recessional:**

The Priest-presider (and deacon) - without face covering - will enter the sanctuary without passing through the congregation, reverence the altar, and take his place at the presider's chair. The Priest-presider may utilize a lectern (near his chair) for the use of the Roman Missal or the Missal may be placed on the altar. The Priest-presider (and deacon) may exit the sanctuary upon the dismissal and reverencing of the altar.

† **Liturgical Ministers:**

- ✦ *Only two MINISTERS OF MUSIC: (1) Cantor who only uses the cantor stand, and (2) Accompanist: Organ, Piano, Keyboard, and/or Guitar*
- ✦ *Only one LECTOR who only uses the Ambo*
- ✦ ***Only MINISTERS OF HOLY COMMUNION as needed** (depending upon worship space's layout and/or needed Communion stations) – Priest-presider plus a deacon (if available) and/or Pastoral Administrator/Director of Parish Life **and/or a specifically selected and instructed Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion (EMHC) - according to the non-risk age group***

† **Supplementary:**

- ✦ *No use of hymnals – use projection screen or disposable Worship Aids (suggested half sheets for necessary parts) or singing by heart*
- ✦ *Book of the Gospels [on Sundays and Holy Days – placed on the altar before Mass]*
- ✦ *A lectern for Missal for Priest-presider (unless using the Missal at the altar)*
- ✦ ***Consider purchasing 1½ inch communion wafers for consecration and the distribution of Holy Communion (for a safer and more hygienic distribution)***

The Introductory Rite: [per usual]

Gathering Song: Option A: *Refrain only of a familiar song sung once or twice*
 Option B: *Entrance antiphon (from the Missal) sung or recited*

Greeting

Penitential Act

Gloria (Sundays and Solemnities): *May be recited or sung; if sung use of a familiar setting that needs no print-out*

Opening Prayer: *No Altar Server necessary*

The Liturgy of the Word

First Reading

Responsorial Psalm *(at the cantor stand – consider familiar settings of the psalm)*

Second Reading *(which may be omitted on Sundays in Ordinary Time)*

Gospel Acclamation *(all sing immediately a familiar setting)*

Gospel *(from the Book of the Gospels on Sundays and Holy Days)*

Homily *(be mindful of time limitations of those assembled)*

Profession of Faith *(recommended use of the Apostles' Creed on Sundays in Ordinary Time)*

Universal Prayer: Option A: *by the Deacon (if one is serving at the Mass) at his chair*
 Option B: *by the Cantor at the cantor stand (with the Responsorial Psalm and Universal Prayer in the same binder)* Option C: *by the Lector at the ambo*

The Liturgy of the Eucharist

- ✦ *No Procession with gifts (and preferably no collection if baskets are already at designated areas in church when people arrive)*
- ✦ *No need for singing - perhaps a short instrumental piece*
- ✦ *Setting of Altar: May be done with or without a server with placement of Priest-presider's chalice and paten on the corporal and **separate corporals and ciboria to the right and left sides of the altar (for each Minister of Holy Communion who will distribute)***
- ✦ *Eucharistic Prayer: Use familiar Acclamations that require no print-outs*
- ✦ *Lamb of God: (Same as above)*
- ✦ *No Greeting of Peace is exchanged*
- ✦ *Communion: The Priest-presider receives Holy Communion during the Mass (and the deacon if present)*
- ✦ *After the response to "Behold the Lamb of God..." - while the Priest-presider receives Holy Communion - only a Communion Hymn refrain (with a Eucharistic "theme") may be sung or the Communion Antiphon from the Missal may be sung or recited*

>>>>>>>The Distribution of Holy Communion to the Assembly<<<<<<<<

- ✦ *This is done at the designated Communion stations following the new instructions Option A or B.*
- ✦ *A refrain from a Communion Song should be sung to accompany the distribution of Holy Communion*
- ✦ *Prayer after Communion (from the lectern at the presider's chair or from the altar)*

The Concluding Rites [per usual]

Announcements

Blessing

Dismissal

Option A: Refrain only of a familiar song sung once or twice

Option B: Instrumental music while the Priest-presider departs



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(Compiled by Sister Chris Gretka, CSJ and Father Jim Bessert)