

**RITE OF COMMUNION OUTSIDE OF MASS**  
**May 27, 2020**

Two Parts for Bellarmine Volunteers distributing Communion During Covid 19

1. Ritual of the Communion Service and reverence for the Body of Christ
2. Safety for everyone's health

Background info

A. This is the actual Body of Christ – to remember this while carrying the Pyx with hosts

-We are God's hands and feet!

-Can break hosts if there are more than expected; hosts need to be consumed after you are finished, so that none remain in the pyx – have the family consume any extra host.

B. Receive names at end of week. Call your family and tell them you will come, giving them a ballpark time on Sunday late morning. Discuss ways you can give them communion and choose the most conservative method between the two of you. Come to church after the livestream of the mass and meet in the narthex 30 minutes after the livestream has ended (typically this will be around 10:30); we will receive communion as a group before we head out. You will receive a pyx and a prayer card to take with you. You should bring a mask and hand gel, along with the list of names/addresses of those you will visit. When you arrive at the home of your parishioner, call them from your phone to tell them you have arrived.

C. Several ways to perform the Rite: in home; placing hosts at door or on porch and praying remotely by phone; on the porch or in the doorway. Bring a few baggies so you can place the pyx in them after you have retrieved them from inside the home.

**1. Ritual**

When you arrive at the family's home, you may visit briefly, "how are you?" etc. Then tell the family what you will do – tell them what to expect in the Rite. For example, "We will start with the sign of the cross, I will read a scripture verse, we will pray the Our Father and then I will offer communion. We will close with a prayer." At this time, you may also ask them if there is something they would like to pray for, and if they would like to offer a prayer at the end.

We mirror the mass when we have a communion service outside of mass: Greeting, Scripture, Communion; Blessing. Most people will have just watched mass, so we do not need to do the longer form of the Rite; each part of the Rite we will use is simple.

- A. Begin the Rite with the Sign of the Cross; this allows all to know the Communion Service has begun
- B. Scripture – provided on the card, or if you have a favorite verse, or if the family asks if they can use their favorite – that is all fine.
- C. Our Father – pray this prayer together; do not hold hands
- D. Communion- Open the pyx; hold up the host – recite, "Behold the Lamb of God..." Then together you can all say, "Lord I am not worthy that you should enter under my roof." Say,

“Body of Christ” to each person, and they will answer, “Amen.” Place host in their hand; do not place it on their tongue.

- E. Wait a few breaths. Say a short prayer to yourself, or just pause as they consume the host. Try to observe silence. Model the behavior you want them to do, by looking down, or closing your eyes.
- F. Blessing – use the prayer on the card, or pray one of your favorites. If the family has asked for prayers, now is the time to incorporate them; allow the family to pray if they would like.
- G. Close with the Sign of the Cross

Initially we may only have one or two names – but over the course of the next month, or the summer, we may have two or three families- so we are aware of the time spent visiting. If the people appear chatty you may tell them you have other families to visit. This gives everyone a role in providing communion to our parish – an awareness of the bigger picture of the Body of Christ.

TAKE THE PYX HOME IN A PLASTIC BAGGIE AND WASH THEM IN WARM SOAPY WATER. BRING WITH THEM WHEN YOU RETURN THE FOLLOWING SUNDAY. THIS WILL BE OUR PROTOCOL UNTIL WE HAVE MORE FAMILIES REQUESTING THAN OUR CURRENT NUMBER OF PYX.

## **2. Safety**

If you feel sick stay home! We will find a sub to visit the family that you were assigned. We have to take precautions between ourselves and the families we visit, and from family to family. We will use hand gel, masks, and baggies as needed.

During your phone call on Friday and again on Sunday morning when you call your parishioner, ask the Covid Questions for everyone’s safety.

If you enter their home for the communion service, do not sit down; have the service standing in a circle in their living area. This would be true on the porch as well. In normal times, it would be so natural to sit and be in “communion” with each other. But we have to be aware that we are going from our home to theirs, and later from home to home of different families. Keep your mask on the whole time; stay 6 feet away from each person. Don’t shake hands or hug upon meeting.

Don’t carry anything in with you if you are entering a person’s home except in your pocket.

During the *Our Father*, do not hold hands. Do not give Communion on the tongue.

Handling the host when placing between door, or on porch for remote service: place pyx in doorway or on an agreed upon spot. Leave it there for the person to retrieve, and after the Rite, the person will place it back and you will pick up with a baggie and then take home to wash in warm soapy water.

Sanitize your hands - Before you enter the chapel, when you arrive at the parishioners’ home, when you get back into your car after your visit, and between homes.