

## **Guidelines for Homebound Ministry**

The guidelines issued May 1, 2020 were in keeping with the regulations handed down from the Governor through the State Fire Marshall. Further, all persons exhibiting the following symptoms are not to be visited for to receive Holy Communion.

- \* a fever over 100
- \* regular cough
- \* difficulty breathing
- \* chills
- \* sore throat
- \* loss of taste/smell
- \* muscle pain

**For the protection of the sick, please be sure that all Ministers of Holy Communion observe the following procedures when bringing Holy Communion to the sick:**

\* Ministers should not engage in this ministry if they are manifesting any of these symptoms listed above.

\* The minister should call ahead of time to make sure the communicant will be available and can receive a visitor. If the person is not feeling well, the visit should be postponed to a later date when they are feeling better.

\* **If the minister is planning to visit more than one home, two previously sanitized pyxes should be utilized. In this case, the supply-pyx with multiple Hosts remains separated. (It is advisable where feasible to have a second person accompany the minister to provide assistance.) Only the number of hosts needed for Communion Call is placed in the pyx to be taken into the home. The pyx taken in to the home is to be purified as preparation for the next Communion Call. In this way neither the supply-pyx nor the home-pyx become contaminated.**

\* **The minister must wear a mask during the entire visit and refrain from physical contact with any persons in the home.**

\* **Before giving Holy Communion the minister must be sure to wash his/her hands with soap and water and/or use hand sanitizer.**

\* The minister should not linger during the visit. A shorter version of the Communion Rite for home is available through the Office of Worship. The minister can spend time visiting with the homebound person via phone or video call to assure them the support and prayers of God's people.

\* **The minister should be careful not to touch his/her face during the visit and must wash or sanitize his/her hands after the Communion Call. Cloth mask should be washed frequently or exchanged for a new paper mask. In the case of shortage of masks, the paper mask may be kept in a bag between uses.**