

appropriate. The church has battery candles which are safe to use. Be flexible to your surroundings and don't be afraid to ask staff for their guidance.

### At your visit, the Rite

9. If the person(s) is unfamiliar with the Eucharistic Rite, briefly go over it. Make sure to respectfully and briefly mention that only Catholics can receive Holy Communion before you start.

Once you have completed the previous steps, begin by inviting them to silence and prayers, and start by make the Sign of the Cross.

10. If the person can only ingest a small piece of Holy Communion please break it up. Try to give the rest of Holy Communion to other people gathered there who are Catholic. If not, you may consume it.

11. If you come and the person changes their mind about receiving, please pray with them and ask if they would want you to come again at a later time.

12. If a person is near death, ask if they wish to see a priest. If yes, call the priest immediately at the Sacred Heart parish office,

(360) 734-2850. If the office is closed, call the emergency number at (360) 474-5126. This number will connect you directly to Father Joseph.

### After your visit is finished

13. If you have Holy Communion that are unconsumed after your visit is finished you should consume them unless you can **immediately** go back to the tabernacle at the Church.

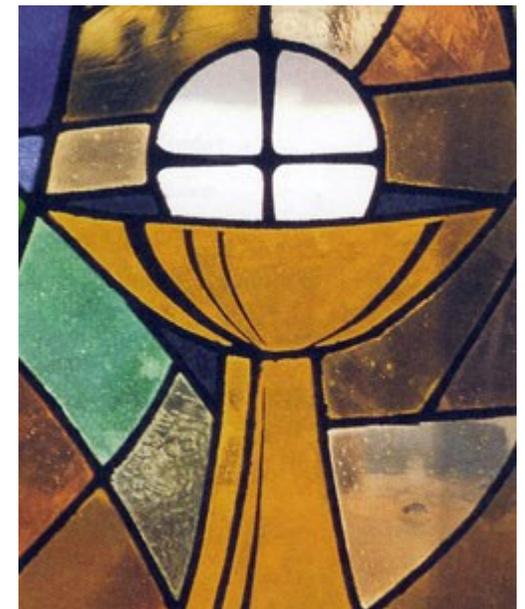
14. After you have finished say a prayer of thanksgiving to God for your ministry and what God has done and gently reflect on how it went. Could you have done anything better? If you have questions, contact Father Joseph.

15. Care of the Corporal: If the corporal becomes soiled please place it in the white bag hanging in the Sacristy. Clean ones will be available in small plastic sandwich bags in the first drawer near the spare pyxes.

### Guidelines for

# HOMEBOUND MINISTERS

## Sacred Heart Catholic Church



### Homebound Ministry Parish Contacts

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## Homebound Ministry

### When/how to pick up Holy Communion

1. Bring your pyx to Mass. At the conclusion of Communion, approach Father with your pyx open. Let Father know the number of consecrated hosts you will need. He will put the corresponding number of consecrated hosts in your pyx and then give you a blessing. **It is ideal that you pick up Holy Communion this way.** If you can't, then you may use the alternative way (obtaining the consecrated hosts directly from the tabernacle).

2. Remember that Christ is present with you, so please be reverent and holy in your thoughts and actions during the time you are

carrying Christ. Mindful of the inestimable treasure that they carry, many Homebound Ministers avoid places that take their minds and hearts away from Christ – the mall, grocery stores, gas stations, etc., so it is recommended that you avoid such places. It is encouraged that you use this time you are carrying Christ for personal prayer.

### Care of Holy Communion at home

3. If you are not going directly to distribute Holy Communion within 24 hours, please create a sacred space with icons, holy cards, candles, etc., at your home where you can leave Christ in peace. Make sure to maintain that space reverent and uncluttered. Also, when you enter that space try to enter it with a spirit of prayer.

### Preparation before your visit

4. Before you go see the people you will be administering Holy Communion to, make sure that you have all that you need:

- ◆ Pyx
- ◆ Book (or the simplified Rite)
- ◆ Bulletin from the Church
- ◆ A crucifix
- ◆ A candle

You are highly encouraged to pray on the way to your ministry.

### At your visit, before the Rite

5. When you arrive, take time to be present to the person(s) by introducing yourself and saying that you were sent from Sacred Heart Catholic Church. Ask them how they are doing and listen closely to their answers. Remember, you are not to give any medical advice or opinions. Always be respectful of the dignity of the person you are with.

6. Take note of any special needs of the person(s), such as energy level, pain, limited motion, or ability to hear or see to tailor the length and content of the celebration accordingly.

7. Please get to know the Rite and the prayers in the Rite so when you pray with people, your focus is on them and not the book. Make sure to know what comes next and where to find it.

8. Set up a place for the celebration by arranging the pyx on the corporal and crucifix and candle in a place that sets the tone for prayer. Be aware that some places where there is an oxygen tank, a candle is not