

Questions About Receiving the Eucharist

It must be difficult for you as pastors and parish priests to not be able to feed your flock with the Body and Blood of Jesus, an act that is at the core of one's priesthood and ministry. With good and holy intentions, a number of priests are being approached by the faithful, asking to be able to receive the Eucharist on an ad hoc basis or to be provided a means to receive the Eucharist regularly (e.g., a drive-thru communion service or at the rectory or in the church during private prayer). As we have been asked many questions on this topic, I thought it would be good to address it to assist your flock in understanding the guidelines about receiving the Eucharist outside of Mass when public Masses are suspended.

Given the connection between the Eucharist and the Sacrifice of the Mass, the rites of the Church envision that the reception of the Eucharist outside of Mass is the exception, normally limited to Communion to the sick or utilizing a Liturgy of the Word in cases where the celebration Mass is not possible. At this time when public celebration of Mass is suspended, public celebrations of the Liturgy of the Word with Holy Communion is also suspended. Therefore, the practice of distributing Holy Communion to the faithful on an individual, ad hoc basis (aside from pastoral care to the sick) is to be avoided.

Pastors are encouraged to communicate to their faithful the value of making a spiritual Communion.

Information on the Archdiocesan Website

The archdiocesan website is being updated regularly with information. I encourage you to continue to share the website adw.org/coronavirus, which includes a link to live streamed Masses and prayers adw.org/live-streamed-masses-and-prayers/.

Lenten Food Drive - The food drive still on.

The Annual ADW Lenten Food Drive (LFD) is scheduled for this weekend. The food collected during this drive is important to our food pantry in the archdiocese. The need to support our neighbors has not diminished and there are growing indications that need will increase.

Pope's request to pray the Rosary

Pope Francis asked the Church in Italy: 'Pray the Rosary...' for the Church and the world.

"Every family, every faithful, every Religious Community, all united spiritually ... for the recitation of the Rosary, with the Mysteries of Light..."

"Mary, Mother of God, Health of the Sick, leads us to the luminous and transfigured face of Jesus Christ and to His Heart. We turn to Her with the prayer of the Rosary, under the loving gaze of Saint Joseph, Custodian of the Holy Family and of our families. And we ask him to guard our family, our families, in a special way, in particular the sick and the persons taking care of the sick: the doctors, the men and women nurses, the volunteers, who risk their lives in this service."

Prayer at St. Michael's

Thanks to all of you for your participation in our prayer before the Lord these days. We have been responding to the current hardship by turning to the Lord who is really present to us in the Eucharist. Everyday our parishioners are coming to the church to adore Jesus in the Holy Eucharist.



So, between 6am and 9pm, there are two to three people at St Michael church praying for the needs of their families, the parish, the nation and the Church. If you are able, PLEASE go to our website and sign-up on the sign-up genius, so that we have the continuous presence of our parishioners interceding before our blessed Lord.

Jesus is the divine healer who demonstrated his concern for the sick through the many miracles of healing found in the gospels.

Within the restrictions given to us by the Archbishop of Washington and the Governor of the State of Maryland, we want to be available to meet the spiritual needs of the parishioners as best we can. At the time of this writing, there should be ten or fewer people in the church at any time. Also, whenever you come to the parish, please keep 6 feet distance between family groups.