

Dear Pastoral Leaders and Staff,

July 1, 2020

Updated November 19, 2020

Updated February 1, 2021

Updated March 23, 2021

Updated May 9, 2022

Updated September 7, 2022

During this time of COVID-19, we are committed to the physical health, mental health, and safety of parishioners and the greater community. We appreciate your patience, understanding, and cooperation as we continually navigate through the ever-changing COVID policies of our state.

Many of you have submitted questions and feedback concerning homebound visits, recognizing that our brothers and sisters bound to their homes – whether by disability, age, illness, etc. – are feeling overcome with loneliness, anxiety, and grief. We recognize your faith-filled desire to offer ministry to this vulnerable population and want to implement a safe way to proceed. The following is the most updated guidance from the Archdiocese of Seattle COVID-19 taskforce:

CONTROL

- Encourage the practice of assigning consistent minister to each homebound person.
- While we recommend that homebound ministers are vaccinated given the fragility of the homebound, this is no longer a requirement. The pastor may consult with the individuals involved to ensure everyone is comfortable with a minister who may not be vaccinated.
- Ministers should self-screen and not visit homebound individuals if exhibiting any symptoms of COVID-19.

MITIGATION

- Masking is strongly encouraged but not required unless the homebound individual requested (see above) or the facility / residence requires it.
- Fresh air should be brought into the space as appropriate and possible.

EXPOSURE

Note: If unable to reach via phone, send a message via e-mail.

In the event a minister or homebound individual later reports testing positive for COVID-19, follow these procedures:

1. Gather information related to the date, time on site and people with whom the person had interactions.
2. Contact anyone who had 15 minutes of interaction within six feet of the person, informing them of the exposure
3. Refer to [Isolation and Precautions for People with COVID-19 | CDC](#) in consulting this related to your specific health situation and next steps.

For your convenience, we have included a Simple Communion Visit Guide. We recommend using this resource in your homebound outreach efforts. For more information, please contact Joe Cotton at joe.cotton@seattlearch.org or Nick Schoen at nicholas.schoen@seattlearch.org Thank you for your compassionate care and commitment to health and safety during this exceptionally difficult time. God bless!

SIMPLE COMMUNION VISIT GUIDE

Ask permission to wash your hands with soap and water before you begin.

Maintain social distance as you sit down.

Place the pyx in a worthy place, with a white cloth and candles, where possible.

Spend a few moments in silent prayer.

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Let us pray.

Lord Jesus, you healed the sick:

Lord, have mercy.

Lord Jesus, you forgave sinners:

Christ, have mercy.

Lord Jesus, you give us yourself to heal us and bring us strength:

Lord, have mercy.

**May almighty God have mercy on us,
forgive us our sins,
and bring us to everlasting life. Amen.**

SCRIPTURE You can substitute a different reading, especially on Sunday.

Jesus says: "I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me."

Pause for a moment. Then offer prayers.

Let us pray to God for healing and strength.

For (NAME OF PATIENT), that God may grant healing and strength, we pray to the Lord. Lord, hear our prayer.

For all (NAME'S) doctors and nurses, we pray to the Lord. Lord, hear our prayer.

For all the sick, we pray to the Lord. Lord, hear our prayer.

For what else shall we pray?

Add petitions as desired. Conclude with:

Let us pray as Jesus taught us.

Our Father....

Take out your pyx. Take the host out and hold it up.

Behold the Lamb of God, behold him who takes away the sins of the world. Blessed are those called to the supper of the Lamb.

Say along with the person:

Lord, I am not worthy that you should enter under my room, but only say the word and my soul shall be healed.

The Body of Christ.

Give them communion. Put the pyx away.

Pause for silent prayer. End with:

Let us pray.

**All-powerful and ever-living God,
may the Body of Christ your Son
be for (NAME OF PATIENT)
a lasting remedy for body and soul.**

Through Christ our Lord.

Make the sign of the Cross as you say,

**May the almighty and merciful God
bless and protect us,
the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit.**

Amen.