

ST. LEO
THE GREAT
CATHOLIC
CHURCH

Communion of the Sick

Prayer of an Extraordinary Minister

Lord Jesus Christ,

You are the Word of God and the Bread of Life.

Help me to bring your gospel message

And Eucharistic Presence to others.

Help me to do so with faith and reverence,

with love and concern.

May I carry out this sacred ministry

Comfortably, but not casually,

Relaxed, yet with awesome respect.

All praise to you,

The God who is, who was, and

is to come

at the end of the ages.

INTRODUCTORY RITES

GREETING

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

R/. Amen

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

R/. And with your spirit.

The minister places the Blessed Sacrament on a table, and all join in brief adoration.

PENITENTIAL RITE

The minister invites the sick person(s) and all present to recall their sins and to repent of them in these words:

My dear friend(s), to prepare ourselves for this celebration, let us call to mind our sins.

A pause for silent reflection follows. Then, use one of the Penitential Prayers. Option A is suitable for a private room setting while Option B is appropriate for a group of worshippers.

A.

Lord Jesus, you came to heal the sick. Lord, have mercy.

R/. Lord, have mercy

Lord Jesus, you came to forgive sinners. Lord, have mercy.

R/. Lord, have mercy

Lord Jesus, you came to heal us and bring us life. Lord, have mercy.

R/. Lord, have mercy

May Almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us our sins, and bring us to everlasting life. R/. Amen

OR

B,
B

All say:

I confess to almighty God,
and to you, my brothers and sisters,
that I have greatly sinned,
in my thoughts and in my words,
in what I have done and in what I have failed to do,

And, striking their breast, they say:

through my fault, through my fault,
through my most grievous fault:

Then they continue:

therefore I ask blessed Mary ever-Virgin,
all the Angels and Saints,
and you, my brothers and sisters,
to pray for me to the Lord our God.

The minister concludes the penitential rite with the following:

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

LITURGY OF THE WORD

The word of God is proclaimed by one of those present or by the Extraordinary Eucharistic Minister. A reading assigned for the day in the *Lectionary for Mass* or one of the following passages may be used:

A.

John 6:51

Jesus says: “I am the living bread that came down from heaven; whoever eats this bread will live forever; and the bread that I will give is my Flesh for the life of the world.”

B.

John 14:6

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

C.

1 John 4:16

We have come to know and to believe in the love God has for us. God is love, and whoever remains in love remains in God and God in him.

HOLY COMMUNION

THE LORD’S PRAYER

The minister introduces the Lord’s Prayer in these words:

At the Savior’s command and formed by divine teaching, we dare to say:

The minister recites with all present:

Our Father...

RITE OF COMMUNION

Then the minister shows the Holy Eucharist, saying:

**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.**

The sick person(s) and the other communicants say:

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

The minister goes to the sick person(s) first and then the others present and, showing the Blessed Sacrament, says:

The Body of Christ. R/. Amen.

After Communion, the minister closes the pyx and then says one of the following concluding prayers:

A.

God our Father, almighty and eternal, we confidently call upon you, that the body of Christ which our brother (sister) has received, may bring him (her) lasting health in mind and body. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

R/. Amen.

B.

Father in Heaven, you brought to completion the work of our redemption through the paschal mystery of Christ your Son. May we who faithfully proclaim his death and resurrection in these sacramental signs, experience the constant growth of your salvation in our lives. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

R/. Amen.

CONCLUDING RITE

The minister then invokes God's blessing and, crossing himself/herself, says:

A.

May the Lord bless us, protect us from all evil and bring us to everlasting life.

R/. Amen.

OR

B.

May the Almighty and Merciful God bless and protect us, the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

R/. Amen

Guidelines for Administration of Communion to the Sick

by an Extraordinary Eucharistic Minister

“Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.” Mt 25:40

I. General Norms

A. The role of the EEMs

If one member suffers in the Body of Christ, which is the Church, all members suffer with that member. (1 Cor 12:26). For this reason, every act of kindness and mutual help extended toward the sick may be considered a preparation for the Gospel and a sharing in Christ's healing ministry. (see Vatican II, Pastoral Constitution on the Church in the Modern World, no 18:AAS 58 (1966) 1038. Extraordinary Eucharistic Ministers to the Sick at St. Leo the Great Parish are parishioners who bring Holy Communion from Sunday and weekday Masses on a regular basis to the ill and infirm confined to their homes or healthcare facilities within the Parish.

Having been commissioned by the Pastor (annual commissioning and blessing of new pyxes takes place on the First Sunday of Advent at all weekend Masses), they share in the ministry of the whole Church and on behalf of the Parish, they manifest faith and compassion toward those who cannot be present at the Eucharist. Extraordinary Eucharistic Ministers to the Sick assist the parish priests and collaborate with them in extending their ministry of support and pastoral care to the sick after the manner of Jesus.

B. Qualifications

In order to fulfill this important role, it is vital for the EEMs to be sensitive to the sick or homebound parishioners' spiritual, emotional and material needs. Consequently, they should keep contact with the Pastoral Care Coordinator at the Parish Office (Griselda Cisneros) should the person be in need of anointing,

reconciliation, a pastoral visit of a priest or financial assistance. It is expected that the EEMs possess the ability to maintain confidentiality and dignity of each person, not discussing indiscriminately the condition of the sick and their homes.

II. Procedure for Distribution of Holy Communion at Healthcare Facilities and Private Homes

A. At Church

1. Arrive at least 15 minutes before 8:00 AM weekday or any AM Sunday Mass.
2. Place the pyx on the table located behind the altar. To request a pyx and/or a burse, call the Pastoral Care Coordinator.
 - a. The pyx must be marked as to how many Eucharist hosts are to be reserved.
 - b. Your name should be on the back of your pyx to help you identify it.
3. Sign the register book with your name, date, Mass time, the number of hosts being requested and location of assignment.
4. Line up on the left side of the altar when the priest summons you to receive your filled pyx.
5. Place your pyx in a burse so you may wear it around your neck.
6. Leave immediately after Mass **or** right after receiving your pyx to distribute communion.

B. Upon arrival at a Healthcare Facility

1. Wear a St. Leo EEM badge for identification and bring a Parish Bulletin. Call the Parish office to request a badge.
2. Sign in at the Reception desk and introduce yourself as an EEM from St. Leo's Catholic Church.
3. The receptionist may print a list of the Catholic residents for you to visit.

4. **IMPORTANT:** Before distribution of Communion, please check at the Nurse's station and ask:
 - a. If the resident is capable of swallowing the Eucharistic host
 - b. If fluids can be given if the resident should ask for water after reception of communion.
5. Wash your hands or use anti-bacterial sanitizer before seeing each resident.
6. Always knock at the door before entering the room, introduce yourself and ask if resident wishes to pray and/or receive communion.
7. After establishing a cordial rapport, begin the Communion of the Sick Ritual.
8. Should the resident ask for confession and/or anointing of the sick, call the parish office at 239-992-0901.

C. Upon arrival at a Private Home

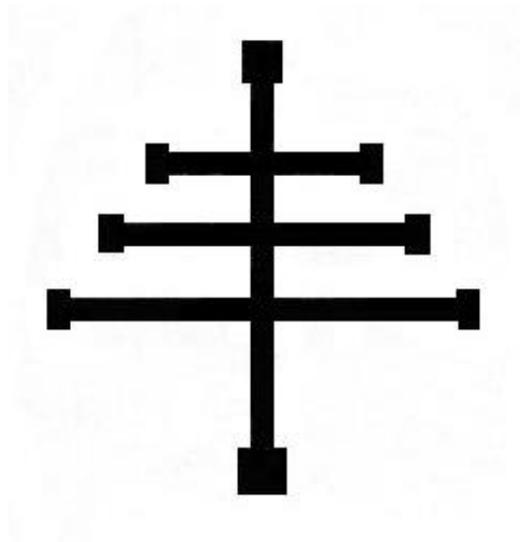
1. Never come unannounced
2. Wear a St. Leo EEM badge and bring a Parish Bulletin. Call the parish office to request a badge.
3. Invite those who are present to participate in the Communion of the Sick Ritual.
4. Depending on the sick person's strength or attentiveness, you may read one of the daily reflections found in the Bulletin.
5. Inform the Parish Staff should the person wish to see a priest.
6. Do not overextend your visit nor take the role of a counselor or confidant.

D. Before you leave

1. Consume all undistributed hosts.
2. In the event that a host or a particle of it is dropped, or otherwise unable to be swallowed by the patient, put the host or remaining particle in a cup and dissolve it in water. Pour the water under a tree.
3. Make sure to return the list to the Receptionist prior to leaving the facility as the names must be protected and kept confidential to satisfy the HIPAA laws.

III. Ad Hoc Ministers

The family members, relatives and close friends of the sick have a special share in this ministry of comfort. In particular, it is their task to strengthen the sick with words of faith and by praying with them, to command them to the suffering and glorified Lord, and to encourage them to contribute to the well-being of the people of God by associating themselves willingly with Christ's passion and death. Parishioners of St. Leo who wish to bring communion to their sick spouses, relatives or close friends should contact the parish office to pick up a pyx with St. Leo's inscription on it and use it to receive a host when approaching for them in the Communion procession during Mass. If the sickness grows worse, however, they should request a personal visit of the parish priest without delay and by their kind words, prudently dispose the sick person for the reception of other proper sacraments.



Thank you for your dedicated service to the suffering members of our community on behalf of St. Leo the Great Parish. May God reward you with his countless blessings for your kindness, compassion and commitment.

Fr. Jarek