

## **Guidelines for Eucharistic Ministers to the Sick**

Taking the Lord's Body to the sick is a wonderful privilege. It should be approached with devotion and humility. It is in keeping with ordinary Catholic practice for a parish to have a significant number of people involved in taking communion on a regular basis to those who are sick. It is appropriate for family members to carry out this wonderful duty. The following are Catholic norms and our parish guidelines.

1. A person must have the parish priest's permission to carry the Blessed Sacrament to the sick. This permission may be obtained by simply asking the priest before the Mass. Only an adult may carry Communion to the sick.
2. The Blessed Sacrament is carried in a container called a pyx. The Body of Jesus is placed there at the time you receive communion at Mass.
3. The Blessed Sacrament must be taken to the sick immediately, without any kind of interruption. It cannot be stored overnight in one's home. If for some reason the visit to the sick cannot be accomplished as planned, the Blessed Sacrament should be returned to the tabernacle.
4. The form for the distribution of communion must be used. It is available in a small booklet that you can obtain from the sacristy.
5. The pyx used for carrying the Lord's Body is a holy vessel and must be returned to the Church when no longer needed.

In the event that a person is close to death, the priest should be requested. The sacraments of Reconciliation and Anointing of the Sick are appropriate for those who are seriously ill. Only a priest may administer these sacraments.