

MOST REVEREND
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The following
PRECEPT

applies to the Clergy and Lay Faithful of the Diocese of Biloxi.

The spread of COVID-19 has presented the Christian community with unique challenges, and certain legitimate innovations have been introduced to meet these challenges; some proposals, however, made in good faith, are not in keeping with sound liturgical practice and/or the tradition of Mass in a parish setting. With other COVID-19-related liturgical directives remaining in place, the following are to be observed:

In Holy Mass celebrated in a church or, where permitted, outside a church, a Priest is to consecrate the elements of bread and wine (i.e. confection the Eucharist) at a single Altar only at which he is present and using an approved text of the Roman Missal. The validity of consecration at a distance from the Altar is questionable, and thus must not be attempted. The bread and wine—and, after consecration, the Body and Blood of Christ—may be covered at the Altar.

Only a spiritual communion is possible for those who participate in a televised or livestreamed Mass. Even with the provision of altar bread(s) and wine, the Holy Eucharist is not confectioned in the home of those who participate in a Mass that is televised or livestreamed.

Those nominated by Pastors as extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion are to be deputed by the Ordinary. In current circumstances, where congregations are not receiving from the Chalice, the total number of Ministers of Holy Communion (including the Priest himself) should not exceed one for every 100 communicants present at a given Mass.

All Ministers of Holy Communion are to wear masks and sanitize their hands with an appropriate hand cleaner. They are to re-sanitize their hands if contact is made with a communicant or after each communicant who receives on the tongue.

Altar breads should be made only from wheat and water. Ultra-low glucose altar breads are permitted for those who suffer from celiac disease, but nothing made from anything other than wheat, e.g., rice, is permitted.

The wine used for Holy Mass is to be natural wine made from the juice of grapes and yeast only. No other juices or additives are permitted—including grape juice added after fermentation (note that “white Zinfandel” wine is often made by adding grape juice after the fermentation process). Priests with alcohol sensitivity may consecrate *mustum* (a low-alcohol wine for which fermentation is arrested by being frozen) for themselves.

Given at the Pastoral Center of the Diocese of Biloxi, this 15th day of July, A.D. 2020.

Louis Kihneman
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Bishop of Biloxi

In testimony whereof:

Dominick Fullam
Monsignor Dominick Fullam, V.G.