



ARCHDIOCESE OF ST. LOUIS

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MEMORANDUM

TO: All priests, deacons, and parish liturgical coordinators
FROM: Father Nicholas W. Smith
DATE: 1 June 2022
RE: Common Communion Chalice

When the COVID-19 pandemic began in early 2020, various restrictions were put in place across the Archdiocese of St. Louis to help stop the spread of the virus. One of those restrictions was the stopping the use of the Communion chalice for the faithful. Beginning on the Solemnity of The Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ (Corpus Christi), Sunday, June 19, Archbishop Rozanski is allowing the faithful to once again receive from a common Communion chalice at parish masses.

This decision comes in light of the easing of many pandemic restrictions in the State of Missouri over the last several months and with many requests from the faithful to return to the distribution of Holy Communion under both Species. As always, every pastor is directed to make local level decisions which are prudent for his local situation. Therefore, the return of the common chalice will be at the discretion of the pastor.

Some concerns to keep in mind in those parishes where the chalice will be restored:

- Ministers who do not feel comfortable with offering the common chalice should not be forced to do so.
- Sacristans/sacristy volunteers should be instructed about the importance of proper washing/cleaning of communion chalices after they have been purified by the priest, deacon, or acolyte.
- Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion should be reminded about the importance and necessity of completely wiping the chalice after each use with a purificator. If many parishioners decide to receive from the chalice, each minister should have one or more purificator(s) available for use.
- Parishes should consider having sanitation readily available if a minister believes he/she has come in contact with a person's saliva.
- Pastors should use this opportunity to remind the faithful that the Catholic Church teaches that Jesus Christ is present (body, blood, soul, and divinity) under either species of Communion.

While the common chalice may return in parishes on the Solemnity of Corpus Christi it is certainly acceptable to delay the return of the chalice if a pastor believes more time is required to properly prepare his people.

Should you have any questions or concerns, please contact Amy Buehrle at amybuehrle@archstl.org or 314-792-7231.

Blessings upon you and your parish community.