



November 7, 2022

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Please find attached the newly revised Guiles for Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion and the suggested bulletin and pulpit announcements, regarding the reintroduction of the distribution for the Precious Blood in the Archdiocese of San Antonio. (Please note that, since we wanted to get the guidelines to you in a timely manner, minor additions to them will be forthcoming).

While a few alternations and edits have been made from previous *Guidelines for Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion*, the most substantial change is found in Section III: The Blessing of Communicants Unable to Receive Holy Communion. Seeking to be more attentive to the directives from the Dicastery for Divine Worship and the Discipline of the Sacraments, while recognizing established customary practice, we are seeking unity throughout the Archdiocese of San Antonio regarding this delicate issue. Therefore, effective immediately, ordained clergy and Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion are to do the following, as found in Section III, when someone enters the Communion line and will not be receiving the Eucharist (I have highlighted in yellow the noted change):

III.

The Blessing of Communicants Unable to Receive Holy Communion

32. The faithful who are unable to receive Holy Communion often approach the Communion line with their arms crossed over their chest indicating their desire to receive a blessing. Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion are not to offer a blessing, in the same manner as a priest or a deacon and should not physically touch the person. As a more appropriate Act of Spiritual Communion, and to establish consistency, it is strongly recommended that the priest, deacon, and Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion, use the following words, normally without a gesture: "Receive Our Lord Jesus Christ into your heart". While the faithful may continue to come in the Communion line for a blessing, celebrants are strongly asked not to encourage this practice. Please refer to the Guidelines for the Reception of Holy Communion, issued by the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, *Dicastery for Divine Worship and the Discipline of the Sacraments, Protocol No. 930/08/L*, for further guidance.

Blessings upon you and your ministry.

Most Reverend Gary W. Janak, JCL
Auxiliary Bishop of San Antonio
Archdiocese of San Antonio