

ADMINISTRATION OF COMMUNION IN THE ABSENCE OF A PRIEST

1. The Bishop may give permission to a lay person to administer Holy Communion from the Reserved Sacrament when there is no priest present at a major festival, or for a period of not more than one month's duration.
2. Adequate education, explanation and instruction must be provided to a congregation before the practice of administration of Holy Communion by a lay person in the absence of a priest is initiated.
3. The Reserved Sacrament must always be kept in a safe and respectable place under lock and key.
4. The celebration of the Holy Eucharist requires a priest to be the presiding celebrant. A lay person must never conduct a Eucharist even if parts of the service are omitted. This causes confusion and misunderstanding.
5. An appropriate time for the administration of Holy Communion by a lay person would be after the third collect at Morning or Evening Prayer. An expression of penitence must precede making Holy Communion unless such a prayer has been part of the former service. Thanksgiving should follow the act of Communion.

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