



“When there are people sick among us, let them send for the priests ...”  
(from the Ritual for Anointing the Sick)

Because we are human, we get sick. Sometimes, it's just sniffles or the flu. Many times it's an illness that causes us or some of our loved ones to find that getting to Church is difficult or not possible. When such events take place in our lives then we need to let the pastoral care ministry of the parish know of our situation so that they can assist us with communion. Contact the Parish at 217-522-3342.

- **Questions?**

**What does it mean to be a homebound parishioner?**

When illness, whether chronic or continuous, makes it difficult or impossible to get to church on a weekly basis, then the ministers of Holy Communion in the parish will visit the homebound person, bring them God's Word, Holy Communion and the continuing presence of the community of St. Joseph the Worker Parish.

**I am not completely homebound, but find it difficult to attend Mass due to my disability.**

While we remind everyone that St. Joseph the Worker Parish is handicapped accessible, has handicapped seating at the front, middle and back of the church, if you find it difficult to get to Church each week due to a disability, our ministers or a family member will visit you with Communion.

**Does the priest of the parish visit the homebound?**

Yes, but because of their other duties they are not able to do it as frequently as the ministers of Holy Communion. The Second Vatican Council has given local parishes, and all the people of God, an awareness that all of us share in the priestly duties of our Church. One of those duties is to visit those who are ill, and a priestly duty that lay people can perform is to visit the sick and bring them communion. If a homebound parishioner would like the priest to visit for the Sacrament of Confession, Anointing of the Sick, or a visit to talk about things at the end of earthly life, please contact the Parish to arrange this visit.

**I am homebound and wish to go to confession; what do I do?**

Only a priest can give absolution in the Sacrament of Reconciliation (confession). If a person wishes to receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation and is homebound, he or she needs to contact the Parish Office at 217-483-3772.