

COMMUNION TO HOMEBOUND IMMEDIATELY AFTER WEEKEND MASSES

Most of us attend the same mass every weekend. Always the Saturday service or always the Sunday. We usually sit in the same rows and same chairs each week. We have become friends with the others who attend that mass and often visit with them before or after the service. We probably will never realize how important that “routine” is, until we are no longer able to come to mass!

There may be people who you suddenly realize you haven’t seen in a while. Their absence may be only temporary, or perhaps they are no longer able to enjoy their weekly gathering with their fellow parishioners.

We have asked for volunteers to take communion to the homebound immediately after weekend masses. They would come to the altar before the last blessing and take a host placed into a pyx that will be provided. With the blessing of the parish they would leave and go directly to the home of one of our fellow parishioners who are no longer able to join us at the weekend liturgy. That blessing from the congregation links our homebound friend, with the parishioners they used to join at weekend masses. During the visit they would read the gospel, share a few sentences from the homily, pray the Lord’s Prayer and the visitor would give our fellow parishioner the Host.

So far only 1 person, Pat Pendleton, has volunteered to take part in this ministry. Pat visits a person who regularly attended the Sat. Mass. We’ve asked Pat to share her experience to help others discern if they possibly have a calling to this ministry.

Pat writes:

The woman that I visit on behalf of all of you, lives in Inver Grove Heights in a senior residence. She has been a member of St. Matthew’s for much of her life and is now unable to attend Mass due to her cancer and her need to conserve energy. She “buzzes” me into her security building. Receiving the Consecrated Host that has mingled with the Communion Cup of her fellow parishioners of St. Matthew holds a great meaning for us. She asks about some of her special friends from our Parish. She requests to be a part of our Book of Intentions. It is a privilege that you entrust me with this Very Special Delivery. She and I talk a bit about the homily of the day and share our own insights. I bring her a bulletin. We share highs/lows of our week. We talk about how Jesus is right beside us on these occasions. We share the joy and hope that God brings to our daily life occurrences. Depending on how she is feeling the visit may be 5 or 45 minutes. Our time together closes with an Our Father, a hug, and the mutual hope that the week ahead is grace-filled.

We have other homebound parishioners waiting for someone to volunteer to serve them through this very important ministry. If you feel you would like to do this contact the parish office or email me at mleibl@st-matts.org. You will be making it possible that one of our parish friends may continue to feel a part of our parish community!