

The Reserved Sacrament (2016)

1. It is best practice and that bread and wine required for a Eucharistic celebration be offered and consecrated at that celebration and not at an earlier time.
2. Normally the sacrament distributed at a Eucharistic celebration be the sacrament that has been consecrated at that celebration.
3. The sacrament that remains from a celebration should be consumed immediately following the service, saving only that which is reserved for the sick and others who cannot be present in church.
4. In the Diocese of Huron, it is not permissible for a deacon or lay person to administer communion from the reserved sacrament to the normal gathering in the absence of the priest, (i.e., so called “Deacon's Masses” are not permitted.
5. Apart from normal gathering of the faithful in church, lay administration of holy communion is permitted only in extra-ordinary circumstances according to the guidelines published by the Bishops' Office from time to time.

Communion from the Reserved Sacrament in the Absence of a Bishop or Priest

One of the extraordinary circumstances which faces the Church are Transitional Deacons in Charge of parishes, and the distribution of Communion in their parish while they are in Transition. In these cases, if a priest (retired or otherwise) is nearby, it is desirable first that the priest celebrate the Eucharist while the Transitional Deacon attend to all other appropriate parts of the service (including preaching). Where the services of a priest are not available for an extended period of time, then the Deacon, who has been given permission in writing by the diocesan bishop, may distribute communion from the Reserved Sacrament according to the forms set out by General Synod and the Bishop of the Diocese

The Care of the Reserved Sacrament

There are many churches in the diocese in which reservation of the sacrament takes place.

It is most important that where the sacrament is to be reserved an appropriate aumbry or tabernacle be provided, well built and with a strong lid or door attached. There must be some form of locking mechanism. The sacrament is not to be kept in an open cupboard where anyone can get at it, nor simply left open in the sacristy.

We have strong sacramental theology as a church and if there are those who desire to reserve the sacrament, let it be done decently and in order.

