

DIOCESE OF MARQUETTE

LITURGICAL POLICY

VIII. WEEKDAY WORSHIP IN THE ABSENCE OF A PRIEST

Since there is no obligation to attend Mass during a regular weekday, if a parish's normal weekday Mass cannot be celebrated due to the absence of a priest, there is not a critical need to replace the Mass with another celebration. If there is a desire on the part of the faithful to have a worship service, Morning Prayer (Lauds) or Evening Prayer (Vespers) without Holy Communion should be the daily alternative as a replacement for a Mass which cannot be celebrated due to the absence of a priest. This may be led by either a deacon, religious sister or a member of the lay faithful trained in conducting such a service in a parish setting.

Nursing Homes: In situations where the residents are not free to move to a different location, cannot attend weekday Mass in a church, and a priest is not available to celebrate the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass, the below conditions apply.

During the week, the preferred service would be *Communion in Ordinary Circumstances* from the *Pastoral Care of the Sick* rites book and can be done by a deacon, consecrated religious sister or Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion.

The shorter rite, *Communion in a Hospital or Institution*, may also be used although the preferred use of this rite is in an individual's room for a very small number of people or an individual.

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