



COPTIC ORTHODOX PATRIARCHATE

DIOCESE OF OHIO, MICHIGAN, AND INDIANA



In the Name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, One God Amen.

Praying you are all in good health and peace. You All noticed, since the pandemic started, in the Holy Lent of 2020, we stopped gathering in the churches and sharing the communion, the Body and Blood of Our Lord Jesus Christ for our salvation to inherit Eternal life. According to our faith and believe, it was very tough time on all of us. After the feast of Resurrection 2020, we started to open the churches with distance & all health precautions. We were able at that time to have an ***exceptional permission*** from His Holiness Pope Tawadros II to share the communion using the way we give it to the sick people in the hospitals, at homes, and elderly people who are not able to come to the church. The Body and the Blood mixed directly from the hand of the clergy to the mouth of the believers.

After my last meeting with His Holiness, he made it very clear to me that all dioceses in Egypt and in the diaspora, the Coptic world, after things got a lot lighter and safer with the pandemic, it's easily treatable right now, even easier than flu, all churches back to what we used to practice for centuries safely, which is giving the Body and Blood of Christ separately with the clergy hands & the Blood by the special consecrated spoon (Masteer).

John 6 :54-55

54	Whoever eats My flesh and drinks My blood has eternal life, and I will raise him up at the last day.	54	مَنْ يَأْكُلْ جَسَدِي وَيَشْرَبْ دَمِي فَلَهُ حَيَاةٌ أَبَدِيَّةٌ وَأَنَا أَقِيمُهُ فِي الْيَوْمِ الْآخِرِ
55	For My flesh is food indeed, and My blood is drink indeed.	55	لَأَنَّ جَسَدِي مَأْكَلٌ حَقٌّ وَدَمِي مَشْرَبٌ حَقٌّ.

It's very clear from the words of Our Lord Jesus, sharing His Body and then His Blood. What we used for almost year and half was with exceptional permission. With hearts and minds full of faith in God's love and protection, as obedient sons and daughters starting from Next week or maximum November 6 , ***the fathers are responsible for applying the communion separately with their church congregations.*** Of course, it goes without saying, ***no other system or way of giving the communion is allowed. ((All the blessings for the obedient son.))***

Don't worry, we are in God's safe good almighty protecting Hands. Our former fathers in the past centuries faithfully and peacefully lived in peace. We will continue our lives glorifying God in everything we do all the days of our life.

With love and regards, always in my prayers and heart,

Saraphim,
Bishop of Ohio, Michigan, and Indiana