

## The office, when to quickly give communion to the very ill <sup>1)</sup>

Religious rite order (Book of Needs, chapter 23).	Notes
<p>The priest takes a portion of the Holy Mysteries <sup>2)</sup>, places it in a chalice and pours in a little wine, as much as the sick person <sup>3)</sup> may comfortably receive it <sup>4)</sup>. And he begins:</p>	<p><sup>1)</sup> It seldom happens that the priest was invited beforehand to confess the sick person, but after some time to partake of the Holy Mysteries, but they usually urge to directly give communion, in which case it is also placed in the Book of Needs Office of Giving Communion to the Sick Person. Therefore, it also has become our custom to confess and give communion to the sick directly according to this office, i.e. they usually read through the Pre-communion Prayers placed in the office, and after that confess and impart communion (refer to the Mystery of Confession, by Prof. A. J. Almazov, vol. 2, p. 90). - For more see note 4 on page 1060.</p> <p><sup>2)</sup> Coming into the house, the priest usually spreads out the covering (aer) on the table covered with a tablecloth. On the aer he places a tabernacle and, having made a prostration before it, he begins the office (Zabelin, p. 176; refer to note 5 on p. 1065).</p> <p>During the parting words of the sick person with the reserved Gifts it is necessary to put on cuffs, as this quite befits the importance of fulfilling the religious rites (Tserkovnyi Viestnik [Church Messenger] 1897, 36).</p> <p><sup>3)</sup> See note 1 on p. 1064.</p> <p><sup>4)</sup> Although some priests, while giving communion of the reserved Gifts to the sick person, also pours water into it (see Tserkovnyi Viestnik [Church Messenger] 1897, 28; refer to Zabelin, p. 180), but, according to the Book of Needs instructions, wine should be poured in.</p>
<p><i>Blessed is our God...</i>  Also: <i>The Trisagion Prayers</i>. After <i>Our Father: Lord, have mercy</i>, 12.  <i>O come, let us worship...</i>, 3 times.  <i>I believe...</i> up to the end.  Then he says:  <i>Of Your Mystical Supper...</i>  <i>Glory: O Heavenly King...</i>  <i>Both now, the theotokion:</i>  <i>We have understood God who was incarnate of you...</i>  <i>Lord, have mercy</i>, 40.  Then this <b>prayer</b>:  <i>O Master, Lord Jesus Christ...</i>  A second <b>Prayer</b>:  <i>O Lord, I know...</i>  A third <b>Prayer</b>:  May the all-merciful Lord God... <sup>5)</sup></p>	<p><sup>5)</sup> See note 2 on p. 1064.</p>
<p>And if the sick person has before this confessed, let</p>	<p><sup>6)</sup> See p. 1061.</p>

<p>him immediately commune of the Holy Mysteries. If not, the priest asks those present to step back for little while <sup>6)</sup>, and he shall questions him (her) concerning his (her) various sins, taking care that nothing is concealed or not confessed because of shame <sup>7)</sup>. And after confession, the priest says this <b>prayer</b>:</p>	<p><sup>7)</sup> Refer to note 3 on p. 1061.</p>
<p><i>O Lord our God,...</i> <sup>8)</sup></p>	<p><sup>8)</sup> After the prayer: "O Lord our God", it is surely necessary to read from the office of confession the Prayer of Forgiveness, only if the sick person has not been confessed and forgiven before: otherwise even the priest, obligated to carry before him his judgment concerning the sins of the one being confessed, he remains in a false position, and conscience of the penitent will be in an uncertain status, since he will not know if his sins are forgiven or not forgiven (Kishinevskiiia Eparkhial'niia Vedomosti [Kishinev Diocesan News] 1871, 20; Tserkovnyi Viestnik [Church Messenger] 1896, 40). - See note 3 on p. 1064.</p>
<p>After communion <sup>9)</sup> he says:  <i>Lord, now let You servant depart in peace,...</i> up to the end.  Then, <i>The Trisagion Prayers. After Our Father: The troparion</i> of the day, <i>Glory, both now, The theotokion: Through the prayers of all the Saints...</i>  <i>Lord, have mercy, thrice.</i>  <i>Bless.</i>  And the daily <b>dismissal</b>.</p>	<p><sup>9)</sup> Before the priest give communion to the sick, usually, he says the prayer: <i>I Believe, O Lord, and confess...</i> and so forth, (see p. 724, note 5, which the sick person repeats after the priest. "He gives communion of the reserved gifts from a spoon twice and three times, that he may request" (Acts of the Moscow 1667 Council - see Posobiye k Izucheniyu Ustava Bogoslužhenia Pravoslavnoi Tserkvi [Manual for the Study of the Ustav of the Divine Services of the Orthodox Church, p. 714. - If the condition of the sick is too dangerous, then, after reading the Prayers of Forgiveness, he should say: "In the fear of God and with faith and love, draw near", and immediately impart the Holy Mysteries to the sick (Rukovodstvo dlia Sel'skikh Pastyrei [Manual for Village Pastors] 1886, 46).</p>

*S. V. Bulgakov, "Handbook for Church Servers", 2<sup>nd</sup> ed., 1274 pp. (Kharkov, 1900) p. 1063  
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