

Where may I receive Holy Communion?

Catholics receive the Eucharist at the celebration of the Mass.

In certain circumstances Holy Communion may be received outside of the Mass:

Home: Homebound Catholics may request a Communion visit by calling their parish.

Hospital: Hospitalized Catholics should indicate at admission that they are Catholic and desire Holy Communion. Ask the staff to contact the priest assigned to the facility, or request a visit from your pastor by calling the parish office.

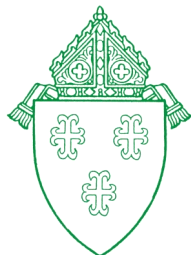
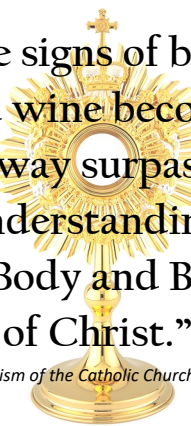
Long-term care facilities: Catholics at these residences often have access to Mass and Holy Communion at the facility. Please make your desire to receive known to the staff.

Hospice: These agencies provide for the spiritual needs of their patients. Ask the staff to arrange a visit from a priest to receive Holy Communion.

In general, Catholics are obligated to receive Holy Communion at least once a year.

“The signs of bread and wine become, in a way surpassing understanding, the Body and Blood of Christ.”

Catechism of the Catholic Church, 1333.



For more information on Health Care Ministry in the Diocese of Providence, visit www.dioceseofprovidence.com or contact Father Albert Ranallo at (401) 783-4411 or healthcarestan@s@yahoo.com

The Eucharist



**Roman Catholic
Diocese of Providence**

What is the Sacrament of the Eucharist?

The Eucharist is known by many names: The Body and Blood of Christ, The Lord's Supper, *Holy Communion*.

Jesus gave us the gift of himself—the Eucharist—at the Last Supper.

Catholics believe that by the power of the Holy Spirit, and the prayers offered by the priest at the consecration, *transubstantiation* takes place. The bread and wine are changed into the Body and Blood of Christ.

The bread and wine are not symbols: They become the *Real Presence* of Christ.



Who may receive Holy Communion?

In general, only Catholics who have:

- examined their conscience and are free from serious sin;
- offered prayer;
- properly prepared by fasting.



The one-hour fast may be reduced to about a quarter of an hour for homebound Catholics and patients/residents of health-care facilities as well as for family members and caregivers who wish to receive Communion with them.

When receiving the Eucharist, Catholics are closely united to Jesus. They express their union with Catholics worldwide and acknowledge the teachings of the Catholic Church.

In general, only Catholics may receive Holy Communion.



Who may distribute Holy Communion?

The *ordinary* minister of the Eucharist is a bishop, priest, or deacon.

Members of the faithful, known as *extraordinary* ministers of Holy Communion, may distribute the sacrament:

- at Mass;
- to the homebound;
- in hospitals;
- in long-term care facilities.

These volunteers from their parish are nominated by their pastor and are appointed by the bishop of the diocese. Such ministers must meet all of the requirements set by the health-care facility.