



Archdiocese of Newark

POST PANDEMIC LITURGY DIRECTIVES

The outbreak of the Covid-19 Pandemic in 2020 required a temporary reduction of liturgical practices in the celebration of the Eucharist and administration of the sacraments. With almost all aspects of life returning to normalcy, it seems opportune for the Archdiocese of Newark to foster a renewed fullness in liturgical celebrations.

Beginning as early as the **Evening Mass of the Lord's Supper on Holy Thursday**, April 6, 2023, but no later than Pentecost Sunday, May 28, 2023, all pandemic reductions and accommodations are abrogated and minimalistic tendencies in the celebration of liturgical rites are to be eliminated.

Receiving the Blood of Christ

In the Gospel of Matthew, at the Last Supper, Jesus specifically commanded his disciples to “eat” and “drink” his Body and Blood. This command is at the heart of all our worship—the Liturgy of the Eucharist.

Communion from the chalice is being restored now, so that all may have the opportunity to participate more fully in the celebration of the Eucharist. The church rightly teaches that whoever receives Communion under only one kind receives the whole Christ, “Body and Blood, soul and divinity,” since the living Lord is totally and completely present in each of the species. However, it also states that “Holy Communion has a fuller form as a sign when it takes place under both kinds” (GIRM, 281).

Beginning as early as the **Evening Mass of the Lord's Supper on Holy Thursday**, April 6, 2023, but no later than Pentecost Sunday, May 28, 2023, parishes across the Archdiocese of Newark will once again begin offering the Blood of Christ at Mass. This will allow all parishioners to respond to Jesus' command to eat and drink at their own level of comfort.

Parishioners wishing to receive Holy Communion from the chalice should approach the minister and bow their head slightly in a sign of reverence. When the minister says “The Blood of Christ,” the communicant replies audibly, “Amen,” takes the chalice from the minister and drinks. The minister then takes it back and firmly wipes both sides of the rim while turning it slightly for the next communicant.

“The consecrated host may be received either on the tongue or in the hand, at the discretion of each communicant” (GIRM, 160).

Eating and drinking the Body and Blood of the Lord fulfills his Last Supper command, commemorates his sacrifice on the Cross, and moves believers into a deeper participation in the Eucharist.