

LITURGY LINK

Receiving Communion Outside of Mass

The eucharist brings us into direct contact with Christ, who is present in us as we gather, in the scriptures we hear, in the bread we eat and in those with whom we live and work. Our eucharistic communion with Christ and one another is the living sign of our belonging to Jesus' kingdom community.

So from its beginning, the Christian community has always made provision for those who are unable to be present to celebrate this eucharistic communion with Christ.

The following communion ritual outside of Mass mirrors the same four parts that give the Mass its structure: a brief introductory rite, a liturgy of the Word, a liturgy of the eucharist and a concluding rite. Use your monthly Living with Christ booklet for the suggested daily readings and prayers.

Prayers of Preparation

For the Eucharistic Minister

O loving God, may your healing and nurturing presence be clearly evident in my whole being today: in my speaking and listening, in my attitude of compassion and understanding.

Help me to communicate to those who are homebound the love and care of Christ and of our Christian community from whom I am sent. Let all that is in my mind, all that comes from my lips and from within my heart, reflect the greatness of your love. Amen.

For the Communicant

The communicant, a household member or the eucharistic minister may say this prayer.

O loving and faithful God, you invite us to share in the eucharistic food, a sign of your

commitment to be with us each day of our life's journey.

Despite our personal limitations, you love us completely and nourish us with your divine life. Give us the strength we need to meet whatever challenges we are now experiencing. Amen.

Introductory Rite

May the blessing of God, the love of Christ, the power of the Holy Spirit and the good wishes of our parish community be with you. **And also with you.**

Pray the Opening or Alternative Opening Prayer from today.

Liturgy of the Word

Jesus' words comfort us in time of need and invite us to continue to be like Jesus even in the difficult times of our lives.

Read aloud one of the daily readings. After some quiet reflection, pray the Responsorial Psalm together and/or share one or two ideas about the reading.

Reception of the Eucharist

The Lord's Prayer

Hearing God's Word has drawn us together, and now we deepen our communion by sharing the body of Christ. To prepare ourselves for his coming, let us pray as he taught us: **Our Father...**

Invitation to Communion

This bread that we share is the body of Christ, the sign of his endless love and the gift of himself so that we may live with God now and forever.

Take and eat this bread with confidence that Jesus' presence in it will nourish you, heal and strengthen you and transform you from within.

The Body of Christ. **Amen.**

Concluding Rite

After communion, allow time for quiet reflection to attend to Jesus' presence. Then pray the Prayer after Communion from today's Mass.

Conclude by sharing a sign of peace with one another.

Living Christ