



Mass Parts 45/52: *Who is Able to Receive Communion*

Something needs to be said about those not able to receive the Eucharist. Catholics, in a state of grace, may receive the Eucharist. So the first conclusion is that non-Catholics are unable to receive the Eucharist. Please inform your guests before Mass about the rules. Don't wait until they come up to me at Christmas looking completely confused and then I have to be the bad guy.

I know that other Christian denominations allow visitors to receive their communion, but their belief is that communion is just a symbol of what Jesus did at the Last Supper. Catholic belief is that bread and wine are truly transformed into the Body and Blood of Jesus Christ at the Mass. If someone does not believe this, they cannot receive it. If someone says they do believe this, then they should become Catholic. And Catholics in turn should never receive communion at a Protestant service. We cannot participate in something that is not the fullness of truth.

For those that are Catholic, we must still take into account the state of our souls, particularly in terms of grace and sin. Those that are in a state of mortal sin are unable to receive. If you are not sure about the state of your soul, think about the last time you went to confession. Review the Ten Commandments. Review the Third Part of the *Catechism of the Catholic Church* which deals with sin. I believe many come up to the Eucharist because, if they don't, others might judge them. I pray that we would be more worried about what God thinks about us. If you find you are in mortal sin, I hear confessions before every weekend Mass!

-Fr. Kopp

Next Week: Communion Procession