



**Office of the Bishop**  
Roman Catholic Diocese of Lubbock

Beginning with the Evening Mass of the Lord's Supper on Holy Thursday, April 6, 2023, and thereafter, Pastors of parishes in the Diocese of Lubbock may return to the practice of distributing Holy Communion under Both Species to those who wish to receive Communion under Both Species. I leave to the discretion of the Pastors whether local health circumstances dictate continued restriction of distributing Holy Communion under the form of the consecrated bread only. I ask the Faithful of the Diocese to respect the decision of their Pastor regarding this practice at the current time.

With the return of this practice as the COVID Pandemic and this year's flu season seem to be lightening, I do remind all the Faithful that they have a moral obligation to refrain from receiving Communion from the Chalice if they are suffering even the mildest of symptoms of illness. I also want to remind our Faithful of the Church's teaching, as enunciated in the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*, art. 1377: "The Eucharistic presence of Christ begins at the moment of the consecration and endures as long as the Eucharistic species subsist. Christ is present whole and entire in each of the species and whole and entire in each of their parts, in such a way that the breaking of the bread does not divide Christ." The Church has taught for centuries that the whole Christ is present under either species; receiving Holy Communion in the form of the consecrated host only in no way diminishes the real presence of Christ, Body, Blood, Soul, and Divinity received in the Eucharist.

This decree is published after months of extensive consultation with a variety of consultative bodies in the Diocese of Lubbock, but especially after consultation with the Presbyteral Council of the Diocese. I am pleased to make available again this enhanced and enriched sign of Christ's presence made real at the table of the Lord's Sacrifice in every celebration of the Eucharist. This post-pandemic moment is especially poignant at this time of Eucharistic Revival in the United States.

Issued on March 17, 2023.

Most Reverend Robert M. Coerver  
Bishop of Lubbock

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**Most Reverend Robert M. Coerver, Bishop of Lubbock**