



## Guidelines for the Rite of Distributing Holy Communion Outside of Mass

The following six principles are to guide the Rite of Distributing Holy Communion Outside of Mass:

1. Whenever possible, Holy Mass is to be celebrated daily in every parish.
2. Whenever the Rite of Distributing Holy Communion Outside of Mass is scheduled on a weekday, every effort must be made to avoid any confusion between the Mass and this celebration. Indeed, while such celebrations may be necessary, they should never detract from the Eucharist as the center of the entire Christian life .
3. Whenever possible, the Mass schedule of nearby parishes should be made available to parishioners. If a nearby parish is celebrating Mass on a given weekday, people should be encouraged to participate in that Mass rather than attending a Rite of Distributing Holy Communion Outside of Mass.
4. On a day when Mass is celebrated in a parish, it is not appropriate to schedule a Rite of Distributing Holy Communion Outside of Mass. Such celebrations should never be seen as equivalent to participation at Mass.
5. The proper ritual for the Rite of Distributing Holy Communion Outside of Mass is found in *Holy Communion and Worship of the Eucharist Outside Mass*.<sup>1</sup> The specialized provisions of *Sunday Celebrations of the Word and Hours*<sup>2</sup> are not appropriate to weekday celebrations.
6. A Rite of Distributing Holy Communion Outside of Mass should never be scheduled for the purpose of “providing a role” for deacons or lay ministers.

**Approved: 2018-March-7**  
**Memorial of St. Perpetua &**  
**St. Felicity**

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<sup>1</sup> International Commission on English in the Liturgy, *Holy Communion and Worship of the Eucharist Outside Mass*, 1976.

<sup>2</sup> Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops, *Sunday Celebrations of the Word and Hours*, 1995.