

BEATI QUI AD CENAM AGNI VOCATI SUNT

Blessed are those called to the Supper of the Lamb:
On Worthy Reception of the Eucharist

“If anyone is holy, let him approach; if anyone is not so, let him repent. Maranatha. Amen. ... But let no one eat or drink of your Eucharist, unless they have been baptized into the name of the Lord; for concerning this also the Lord has said, ‘Give not that which is holy to the dogs.’” - (Didache 10, 9)

Psalm 78: 9-31

1 Corinthians 11:23-26

- Why is Holy Communion the “source and summit of the Christian life” (*LV MEN GENTIVM*, no. 11)?
- Why should the Eucharist be treated with the utmost reverence and respect?

Matthew 8: 5-13; Matthew 5:21-26

- What does it mean to be worthy? Are any of us truly worthy to receive Christ?
- What is “worthy reception of the Eucharist”? What must we do to be “worthy” to receive? Are there any exceptions?

1 Corinthians 11:17-22

- What abuses are being condemned by Paul in this passage?
- Why do we fast before Communion?

1 Corinthians 11: 27-32

A person who is conscious of grave sin is not to celebrate Mass or to receive the Body of the Lord without prior sacramental confession unless a grave reason is present and there is no opportunity of confessing; in this case the person is to be mindful of the obligation to make an act of perfect contrition, including the intention of confessing as soon as possible (Code of Canon Law # 916).

Nowadays [some] New Testament scholars say that the Eucharist is the continuation of the meals with sinners that Jesus had held a notion with far-reaching consequences. It would mean that the Eucharist is the sinners’ banquet, where Jesus sits at the table; [that] the Eucharist is the public gesture by which we invite everyone without exception.

The Eucharist is not itself the sacrament of reconciliation, but in fact it presupposes that sacrament. It is the sacrament of the reconciled, to which the Lord invites all those who have become one with him; who certainly still remain weak sinners, but yet have given their hand to him and have become part of his family (Joseph Cardinal Ratzinger).

2 Samuel 6: 1-7; John 13: 21-30

- What happens when we receive Communion unworthily? Is this a trivial manner?

Further Reading: “Happy Are Those Who Are Called to His Supper”: *On Preparing to Receive Christ Worthily in the Eucharist*

St. Joseph, Foster Father of Our Lord
Pray For Us