

Is intinction during Holy Communion still permitted today?

Over the centuries, the Latin Rite of the Roman Catholic Church permitted intinction (e.g., partly dipping a consecrated host into the consecrated wine) as a means of receiving Holy Communion. After the Second Vatican Council however, the practice of intinction began to be used less often, out of concerns regarding the spilling of the Precious Blood or dropping of the Precious Body on clothing, the floor or carpeting, etc.

On April 23, 2007, in a letter to all diocese pastors and parish directors, Bishop Sheridan published revised diocese guidelines for Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion (EMHC) in which he advised that the practice of intinction is no longer to be permitted in this diocese.

In order that we may provide the utmost reverence and handling of the Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ, the practice of intinction at Holy Trinity Parish is to be discontinued effective this weekend, on the Solemnity of Corpus Christi. EMHCs are asked to comply with the procedures for those requesting intinction noted in the EMHC Handbook dated June 2007.