

## **PARTICIPATION IN THE MOST HOLY EUCHARIST**

**Can. 912** Any baptized person not prohibited by law can and must be admitted to holy communion.

**Can. 913 §1.** The administration of the Most Holy Eucharist to children requires that they **have sufficient knowledge and careful preparation** so that they understand the mystery of Christ according to their capacity and are able to receive the body of Christ with faith and devotion. *“Sufficient knowledge and careful preparation” is determined by the diocese and implemented in the parish. Diocesan policy requires two consecutive years of faith formation prior to being admitted to the sacrament. If this has not occurred, the reception of the sacrament may be delayed.*

**§2.** The Most Holy Eucharist, however, can be administered to children in danger of death if they can distinguish the body of Christ from ordinary food and receive communion reverently.

**Can. 914** It is primarily the duty of parents and those who take the place of parents, as well as the duty of pastors, to take care that children who have reached the **use of reason are prepared properly and, after they have made sacramental confession, are refreshed with this divine food as soon as possible. It is for the pastor to exercise vigilance so that children who have not attained the use of reason or whom he judges are not sufficiently disposed do not approach holy communion.** *In the Diocese of Youngstown, the use (or age) of reason is children in the 2nd grade (6-7 years old). If a lack of reason or participation in sufficient preparation is found lacking, admittance to the sacrament may be delayed. “Refreshed with this divine food as soon as possible” illustrates the parents’ obligation to join with their child(ren) in celebrating the Eucharist on Sundays and other obligatory celebrations throughout the year.*