

EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS OF HOLY COMMUNION

Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion, Lector, Servers, Deacon and Presider gather in the sacristy for a prayer before Mass.

1. The Extraordinary Ministers of Communion come up around the altar immediately after the priest celebrant has consumed the Body and Blood of Christ.
2. One of the ministers goes to the credence table and brings the extra Communion plate to the altar. (The ciborium is not brought to the altar at this time - it remains in the tabernacle for reserve - unless or until we run out of the consecrated hosts.)
3. The priest celebrant or deacon will give the Body of Christ to the Ministers and the Mass servers
- each is to bow profoundly before receiving, answering, "AMEN", as they receive. The priest celebrant or deacon will give the Blood of Christ to the Ministers and Mass servers. Each is to bow profoundly before taking the Cup, answering, "AMEN", as they do so.
4. The Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion then take their places to distribute Communion. Please remember to take Communion to those in the pews who are not able to come up to receive.

-AFTER COMMUNION -

5. One of the Ministers/ deacon/ priest celebrant puts the remaining Body of Christ in the ciborium which is placed in the tabernacle.
6. If need be, the Ministers of the Cup clear the altar and consume any remaining Precious Blood at the credence table. All the empty Sacred Vessels are then placed on this table - no one goes into the sacristy.
7. Before returning to their seats, all the Ministers stand at the base of the altar and together with the priest celebrant/ deacon, bow to the altar.
8. After Mass the Ministers take the Sacred Vessels to the sacristy, cleanse them, and either put them back on the credence table for the next Mass or put them away.

"It should be clear that the faith of an Extraordinary Minister of Communion is very important. Each one must believe what the Church believes, that when we receive Holy Communion, we take into our bodies the Body and Blood - the Person - of Jesus Christ. The Eucharist is not food that represents Christ, or food to make us remember him. It is Christ. It is the risen Lord who at his final Passover meal gave this gift to be continually shared out among those who have faith in him.

Immense Love" (*Immensae Caritas*)

SOME POINTS FOR REFLECTION

Those who have offered and are assigned to bring Holy Communion to the homebound: Please remember how important you are to the homebound and to the parish community you represent. Remember, as you minister to this person, you are the only link between him/her and the community which gathered and celebrated the Eucharist. Bring them a copy of the bulletin. If you are unable to provide this ministry on the date assigned, please contact someone else to take your place.

1. Develop a devotion to the Eucharistic presence of Christ both in the Eucharistic bread and Eucharistic wine knowing the Christ of the Eucharist, not just knowing *about* the Eucharist. Read and meditate on some of the Eucharistic passages in the gospels and in Paul's letters.
2. Know you are a minister of the Church and prepare yourself before every Mass with a moment of quiet prayer.
3. Do not draw attention to yourself by dramatic or hurried movements. Simply be deliberate in your walking to and from the altar. Communicate reverence with unrushed dignity at all times when you are ministering. At all times, keep in mind that your ministry is one of honor and privilege to be handled with noble simplicity.
4. Remain calm if any mishap occurs during communion: accidental spilling of the Precious Blood or dropping the Body of Christ. In the event of spilling the Precious Blood, please use the purificator to immediately cover the spot. If the Consecrated Host is "soiled", put it aside so that it can be placed to dissolve in the sacrarium (the special sink in the sacristy whose pipe goes directly into the ground, rather than the city sewer). The Consecrated Host is not to be disposed of when it is still recognizable as such.
5. Respect each communicant's wish regarding reception in the hand or on the tongue.
6. As you say: "Body of Christ", hold it up so that the communicant can see it when responding, "Amen". Do the same with the Cup. Be loud enough for the communicant to hear you.
7. Allow the person time to say "Amen" before moving the Body of Christ or Blood of Christ toward him or her.
8. In spite of the repetition of "Body of Christ" and "Blood of Christ", try to keep focused so that it isn't mechanical.
9. Calling people by name makes others feel excluded - unless you know everyone.
10. Touching the hands of the communicant during the act of placing the Consecrated Host on their palm is natural and appropriate for this ritual that uses bread and wine, fruit of the vine and "work of human hands."
11. Secure a substitute in advance whenever you are not able to minister at the Mass for which you are scheduled.
12. Do not let your role as Minister make you nervous or distract you from worshiping and participating fully in all parts of the liturgy.
13. If a worshiper approaches you carrying a small child, consider making the sign of the cross on the child as a gesture of inclusion.
14. Ministers should stand far enough away from each other to avoid congestion.
15. Present the Cup in such a way that communicants can easily take it into their own hands. When presenting the cup to younger communicants, hold and guide the cup for them: they may not hold onto the cup firmly and could drop or spill the Precious Blood.
16. Your attitude, appearance and performance at this ministry matters a lot to the other participants at the liturgical celebration. The way you minister has the potential to add or detract from the celebration.