

GUIDELINES FOR THE EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS OF HOLY COMMUNION



Holy Spirit Catholic Parish

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USE YOUR GIFT FOR THE GLORY OF GOD

“The end of all things is near; therefore, be serious and discipline yourselves for the sake of your prayers. Above all, maintain constant love for one another, for love covers a multitude of sins. Be hospitable to one another without complaining. Like good stewards of the manifold grace of God, serve one another with whatever gift each of you have received. Whoever speaks must do so as one speaking the very words of God; whoever serves must do so with the strength that God supplies, so that God may be glorified in all things through Jesus Christ. To him belong the glory and power forever and ever. Amen.” (1 Peter 4:7-11)

ALL OF US BELONG TO THE ASSEMBLY OF GOD’S PEOPLE

Before we are an extraordinary minister of communion, or any other minister in the assembly, we are one with each other as a people called by God to come together in worship. The fundamental ministry is that of the assembly. Under the leadership of the presiding priest, all of us are celebrants in the paschal mystery – the death and rising of Jesus. Therefore, it is important for all to participate fully and actively in our liturgy, singing the acclamations, psalms and hymns. We listen attentively to the Scripture readings and homily. All liturgical ministers, have an added responsibility to set an example to others in the sacred assembly, to be models of prayerful participation

WHO IS ELIGIBLE TO BE AN EXTRAORDINARY MINISTER OF COMMUNION?

All members of the parish, male or female, who are fully initiated (i.e. have been confirmed and received their first communion) are eligible to serve in this ministry. Extraordinary ministers of communion should be mature Roman Catholics, persons of character who have by their actual Christian living shown that they have taken their faith seriously. They are persons who manifest a deep devotion for the Eucharist.

RESPONSIBLE MINISTRY

The parish has a responsibility to invite people to serve in a particular ministry and to train and support them so that they may serve to the best of their ability. Those called have a responsibility to attend workshops when offered and to exercise their ministry when scheduled. If a person is unable to serve at the scheduled time, then they must find a replacement, otherwise the community suffers when it gathers for worship. A volunteer information sheet is required and coordinators are expected to contact each minister with feedback and evaluation. Suggestions may be given to the pastor, deacon or coordinator.

SCHEDULING

The name noted as #1 on the schedule is the one to proceed to the Tabernacle to retrieve the ciborium. Do this as soon as the presider introduces the Sign of Peace. That will ensure enough time to reverently come down the aisle and up to the altar. The other ministers assemble in front of the pew on the left side. All ministers step up to the sanctuary at the same time.

BEFORE MASS

Arrive at least 15 minutes before Mass and sign in so that the mass coordinator knows that you are present. If not sitting with family or friends, reserve a seat (signs available). Join the presider and other ministers for the preparatory prayer. Following the prayer, join the entrance procession behind the altar servers and ahead of the lectors. When reaching the front, EMs position themselves to the right or left, of the presider and bow when the presider bows to the altar. When the presider kisses the altar, return to your seat.

HYGIENE

Clean hands and fingernails are required on the part of all ministers. This is especially true or those who share Communion. In the instructions for the Eucharistic celebration, no provision is made for Eucharistic ministers to engage in a washing of hands in the sanctuary. The washing of the priest's hands is a ritual gesture and not for cleanliness.

COMMUNION PROCESSION

After sharing the sign of peace with those around you, reverently approach the altar, stand in front of the pew on the left side and wait until the minister carrying the ciborium arrives. Only bow to the altar if you are crossing in front of it. Do not continue to exchange the sign of peace during the "Lamb of God". Stand to the left of the altar.

After the priest receives communion, the ministers of communion, altar servers and others present in the sanctuary receive.

All wait till the priest leads and then move to their place of distribution.

Hold up the bread and say, "The Body of Christ." When the communicant says, "Amen" place the host on the hand or on the tongue.

When a child/adult approaches you with their arms crossed, please use your thumb to make a small cross just over their forehead. Do not touch the skin. Do not say anything.

Ministers of the cup extend the cup and say, "The blood of Christ." The communicant takes the cup, drinks from it and returns it to the minister. The minister wipes the rim of the cup with an open purificator and then turns it a quarter turn so that the next person drinks from a different position on the rim. The practice of individuals dipping the host into the cup is not permitted in liturgical law. If the cup is empty, return it to the altar. Never continue to serve an empty cup. Return the cup and the purificator to the altar to have remaining wine consumed and then return to their place in the assembly.

The person taking the remaining hosts to the tabernacle does **NOT** bow to the altar since they are carrying the Body of Christ.

AT THE END OF MASS

Immediately after the final blessing, when the presider kisses the altar, all ministers of communion come forward to participate in the recessional. Process out behind the altar servers and before the lectors.

Following the closing hymn, the second and third ministers return to the credence table to assist in purifying the vessels in the sacristy.

Before immersing the vessels in soapy water, be sure to empty any fragments into the sacrarium. Experienced ministers of communion can help the newer ministers.

QUESTIONS

Your service of ministry is greatly appreciated by the parish. If at any time you have questions, do not hesitate to contact the parish coordinator for extraordinary ministers of holy communion:

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