

EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS OF HOLY COMMUNION

Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion are called to provide a very special service to their parish. They are ministers of the Church, the servants of the faith community who assist the ordinary ministers in distribution of the Body and Blood of Christ to the faithful in the Mass. Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion should show the greatest reverence for the Most Holy Eucharist by their demeanor, their attire and the manner in which they handle the Body and Blood of Christ. (Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion are mandated for service in their parish only.)

GUIDELINES

1. Plan to arrive at least 10-15 minutes before Mass. If necessary, it will allow for any special instructions from the presider.
2. During the Lamb of God move to the bottom step and wait until the celebrant picks up the chalice to approach the altar.
3. After the ministers have received communion, the presider will hand the communion bowls to the ministers. During the 10:00 Mass the celebrant will distribute the host to all ministers. The ministers of the cup will approach the presider to receive the precious blood and purificator, and then move to their communion stations. (cup to min. of host)
4. Distribute communion in a manner that is reverent and hospitable. When a communicant comes before you, raise the host a little above the ciborium and looking the person in the eye say, "The Body of Christ." They will respond by saying, "Amen." The communicant may choose whether to receive the Body of Christ in the hand or on the tongue. **THE HOST SHOULD BE CONSUMED IN THE PRESENCE OF THE MINISTER.**

5. If you run out of hosts, place the communion bowl on the altar and proceed to the tabernacle to get a ciborium. Use the ciborium to distribute communion.

6. As people who wish to receive from the chalice come forward, offer them the chalice, saying, “The Blood of Christ.” As they respond, “Amen,” they will take the chalice in their hands. Hold the chalice at the node, leaving the rim and the base free for the communicant to grasp. Always let go of the chalice completely, unless the communicant cannot easily hold it. After each person has received the Blood of Christ, the minister carefully wipes both sides of the rim of the chalice with a purificator. This action is a matter of both reverence and hygiene. For the same reason, after each person has received the Precious Blood, the minister turns the chalice a quarter-turn and moves the purificator to a clean place before wiping it again.

7. Children or adults, who ask for a blessing by crossing arms on the chest, receive it by laying the hand over the head, not by the Sign of the Cross and NEVER with a host in the hand. Father will give you instructions as to the form of blessing to be used.

8. After distributing communion, the ministers that distributed the hosts return to the altar, placing the communion bowls on the altar and wait until all three ministers have returned. PLEASE NOTE: CONSECRATED HOSTS SHOULD ALWAYS BE PLACED ON A CORPORAL; REGARDLESS OF WHAT THEY ARE IN, CIBORIUM OR COMMUNION BOWL. If a ciborium has not been used to distribute communion, one minister will go to the tabernacle and bring a ciborium to the presider. After placing the remaining hosts in the ciborium the presider will give the ciborium to one of the ministers. All

three ministers go to the tabernacle to place the ciborium in the tabernacle. If necessary the ministers may purify their fingers in the ablution bowl if there are particles of hosts on their fingers.

9. Ministers of the cup are to consume the remaining Precious Blood in the sacristy, placing the empty chalices/cups on the corporal designated for them.
10. At the conclusion of the recessional hymn one of the ministers returns to the altar to retrieve the collection basket.
11. If a host is dropped, immediately pick it up and place it back in the ciborium, trying to keep it (as best possible) separated so that it may be consumed later. Once you have finished, let the presider know the host fell on the floor and whether or not it was in someone's mouth.
12. If the Precious Blood is spilled, immediately cover the spill with the purificator, soaking it up. The area should be washed and the water poured into the sacrarium.

Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion at All Saints perform a very important role in our worship. If you have any questions or concerns call the office at 682-1415. If your questions are concerning the homebound ministry, call Helen Wales at 612-0696.