

## Reminders for Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion

- To perform the ministry, the Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion needs to be the right kind of person: a baptized Catholic in good standing with the Church. The minister will be a person of faith, who believes in God, follows Christ and trusts the Holy Spirit. The minister will have a genuine love for the Eucharist.
- When giving Holy Communion, one says “The Body of Christ” and “The Blood of Christ.” No one who distributes communion may modify these words.
- It is not permitted to use a person’s first name, even if the community is very small or if bringing Holy Communion to a homebound individual. It is not our individual closeness to any communicant that is at work; rather, it is the gift of Christ himself given to those who follow his commands.
- Prior to distributing Holy Communion, you are first to receive the sacred species from either the Priest or Deacon who, in turn, hands you the appropriate sacred vessels to administer Holy Communion to those in the assembly who come forward to receive.
- You should distribute Holy Communion to all who come to receive, unless instructed not to by the Pastor. The question of “refusing Holy Communion” for Extraordinary Ministers does not exist, unless the ministers are instructed as such by the Pastor prior to the Eucharist celebration.
- You bow:
  - Upon approaching the altar when processing in unless you are carrying the Gospel book\*
  - Upon approaching the altar for the breaking of the bread
  - After Father closes the tabernacle

\*If you are carrying the gospel book, place the book on the altar. Then return to the foot of the altar, bow and proceed to your seat.
- You *Do Not* bow when carrying the Body and Blood of Christ.
- The MC stands next to the altar servers. Mass Coordinator (MC) brings communion to the choir and designated back pews. Let Father and/or Deacon know you are the MC. If you are serving the Precious Blood, wipe cup with the purificator and rotate cup and purificator as you continue to serve.
- When carrying the cup of Precious Blood, cover the cup with the purificator in your hand.
- If you are given the large ciborium, your position will be front center unless you are the MC.
- Carry chalice and ciborium with due reverence and respect (remember you are carrying Jesus).
- The Eucharist may not be taken away from the altar or out of church except in accordance with procedures established to comply with the Decree of the Diocesan Bishop. If someone presents pyx for Eucharist, EM may not place consecrated host in pyx. The law of the Diocese of Joliet must be followed. Pyx must be brought up with offertory gifts. When gifts are not carried up during Mass, the pyx is to be placed on the credence table.
- If someone receives the Eucharist and proceeds to walk back down the aisle before consuming the consecrated host, follow them and ask them to consume.
- If someone in line is not receiving communion i.e. has their arms crossed chest, EM should simply say, “May God bless you.” It is not necessary to place your hand on the person.
- Use the center aisle when carrying the Body and Blood of Christ. (going to back of church or returning to front)

- If the Eucharist or some particle of it falls, it should be picked up reverently by the minister. The consecrated bread may be consumed or completely dissolved in water before being poured down the sacrarium. (special sink in sacristy)
- If the consecrated wine is spilled from the chalice, first blot and soak up with a purificator. Lay the purificator over the spot as a marker. After Mass, if necessary, the area should be washed and the water poured into the sacrarium.
- In those instances where there remains more consecrated wine than was necessary and if needs dictate, the EM consumes what remains of the Precious Blood from their cup of distribution.
  - **Note to Mass Coordinator: The amount of wine to be consecrated should be carefully measured before the celebration so that none remains afterward.** It is forbidden to pour the Precious Blood into the ground or into the sacrarium.
- Consume remaining Blood near the credence table. *Do Not* consume while walking nor consume as you approach the altar.
- Scheduling is done in three (3) month increments. (Let Jen Melbert know at least two (2) weeks in advance the weekends you are not available to serve. (Ex: by mid-December for Jan-Feb-March)
- Obtain your own replacement if unable to serve at your scheduled time. When responding to emails for replacements, “please respond to all”.