

Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion

("Eucharistic Ministers")

All 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 consecrated bread or wine.

Norms for the Distribution and Reception of Holy Communion under Both Kinds, 29

Before Mass

1. Ministers arrive at church at least 15 minutes before their scheduled Mass and proceed to the Vesting Sacristy to check in. Once there, they confirm their assigned Communion station and whether they will be distributing the Body of Christ or the Precious Blood.
2. If you are not scheduled for a Mass at which you are present, you are encouraged to check the sign-in sheet to see if we need a volunteer.
3. Note that when a deacon is present, he will distribute the Body of Christ.
4. Ministers sit within the assembly and participate fully in the liturgy. Extraordinary Ministers are not part of the opening or closing procession and do not perform other ministries during the same Mass, unless an emergency situation arises.
5. Guided by reverence for the ministry and their witness to the assembly, ministers choose clothing that is appropriate. Business casual is a reliable guide; shorts, sweats, distressed jeans, T-shirts, flip-flops, or other overly casual wear are to be avoided.

During Mass

1. At the Sign of Peace, ministers greet those around them in the pews then, during the Lamb of God, unhurriedly make their way toward the Sanctuary steps. Please use the hand sanitizer located on either side of the Sanctuary before locating your designated place on the steps. Ministers do not bow as they take their place on the steps. Note that we have eight ministers, including the priest (and deacon if one is present), at our 4:30 p.m. and 8:00 a.m. Masses. We have a total of ten ministers at our 10:00 a.m. Mass. Once in position, your attention is focused on the Altar.
2. After the priest has received the Precious Blood, the ministers move to their designated stations behind the Altar. The priest will serve all of the ministers the Body of Christ. Please model appropriate Communion reception for the

assembly, first with a bow and then a reverent “Amen.” The priest will also serve the cantor and instrumentalist.

3. The priest will then serve every other minister the Precious Blood. If there is a deacon present, he will assist in distribution of the Precious Blood.
4. Ministers who will be serving the Precious Blood receive Communion, retain the chalice, unfurl the purificator, purify the rim, then turn to the minister on their right and offer them the Precious Blood. The minister nearest the choir, serves the cantor and instrumentalist.
5. The priest (or deacon) will bring the ciboria to the ministers serving the Body of Christ. Ministers do not approach the Altar to pick up a ciborium; ministers never serve themselves Communion.
6. Once everyone has the appropriate vessels, the priest proceeds to his Communion station (3H) and all the ministers follow suit.
7. Please be attentive to persons in wheelchairs or others who may be infirm and need Communion brought to them. Normally, the priest will serve those seated in the center aisle. Our usual procedure is for our Sacristan (or someone else designated to do so) to serve those in the reserved pews who are not able to come forward.
8. In distributing the Body of Christ to members of the assembly, the minister holds the host elevated above the ciborium, makes eye contact with the communicant, and in a clear, kind voice says, “The Body of Christ.” The communicant responds “Amen.” These are the only words to be used, nothing is to be added. It is not permissible to call the communicant by name.
9. The minister places the Body of Christ in the hand or on the tongue according to the manner indicated by the communicant. Note that occasionally a communicant may kneel before presenting their tongue to receive Communion.
10. Children who have not yet celebrated their First Communion and adults who are not Catholic, sometimes present themselves in the Communion procession with crossed arms. With a smile and a gracious voice, you simply say, “May God bless you.” You are not permitted to make the Sign of Cross over the person. Do not touch the communicant.
11. Occasionally, before receiving Communion, a communicant will present a pyx (a small, round receptacle specifically for transporting the Body of Christ to the homebound and sick). Place a host in the pyx and allow the communicant a moment to close it before proceeding to serve them Communion in the usual manner.

12. In the *extremely* rare circumstance that a communicant begins to walk away carrying the host, the minister politely reminds them, in a subdued voice to, "Please consume the host now."
13. Distribution of Communion under Both Species is recommended in all celebrations of the Eucharist; but it is the communicant's option to receive from the chalice.
14. In our church, ministers serving the Precious Blood are positioned a sufficient distance from the minister serving the Body of Christ to ensure a smooth flow of the Communion procession.
15. In offering the Precious Blood, the minister holds the chalice up slightly, makes eye contact with the communicant, and says in a clear, kind voice, "The Blood of Christ," to which the communicant responds "Amen." As with the Body of Christ, no words are added to the greeting and affirmation. It is not permissible to call the communicant by name.
16. The minister holds the chalice with one hand and places their other hand under the chalice to ensure a safe (and complete) handoff to the communicant. The communicant receives the Precious Blood and hands the chalice back to the minister. The minister uses their purificator to wipe the rim of the chalice and turns it slightly to present a fresh chalice to the next communicant.
17. Intinction (dipping the host in the wine) is not customary in the United States and the practice of self-intinction is not permitted. If someone approaches with a host, place your hand over the chalice and gently remind them to consume the host.
18. Ministers who finish distribution before others proceed to assist those ministers who still have communicants in line.

Mishaps During Distribution

1. If there is a mishap, proceed with grace, kindness, and calm so as not to embarrass the communicant and distract the assembly.
2. "If the Eucharistic bread 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." (*General Instruction of the Roman Missal*, 280) (The sacrarium is the special "sink" in the Working Sacristy, that empties directly into the ground) If you cannot consume the host, place it in your hand under the ciborium, until the conclusion of Communion.

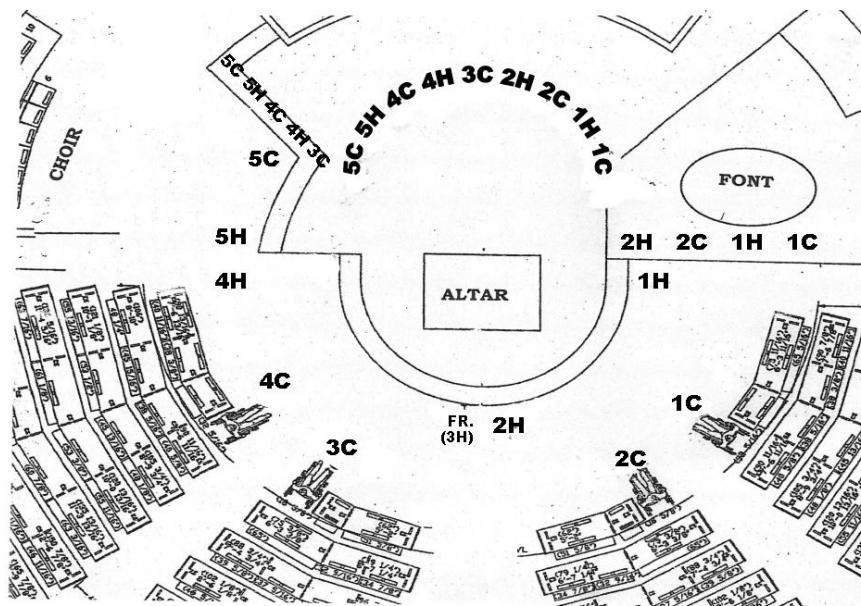
3. If the Precious Blood is spilled, the area should immediately be covered with a purificator. After Mass, the spill will be blotted and washed with water. The purificator should be rinsed and wrung out in the sacristarium.

Procedures After Distribution

1. Once everyone has been served (please do look around one more time to see if someone is trying to catch your attention), ministers with a ciborium return to the Altar. Hand your ciborium to the priest or deacon, do not set the ciborium on the Altar. The priest or deacon will consolidate the remaining consecrated hosts into one ciborium and place it in our Tabernacle.
2. Ministers who served the Precious Blood take their chalices to the Working Sacristy. There, the minister consumes any of the Precious Blood that may remain in the chalice. The purificator is deposited in a special receptacle.

Special Needs

If someone asks you about gluten-free hosts or non- or low alcohol alternatives for Communion, please direct those inquiries to the Sacristan.



“Taking part in the Eucharistic sacrifice, which is the fount and apex of the whole Christian life, they offer the Divine Victim to God, and offer themselves along with It. Thus both by reason of the offering and through Holy Communion all take part in this liturgical service, not indeed, all in the same way but each in that way which is proper to himself. Strengthened in Holy Communion by the Body of Christ, they then manifest in a concrete way that unity of the people of God which is suitably signified and wondrously brought about by this most august sacrament.”

Lumen Gentium, 11