

LITURGICAL MINISTERS

INTRODUCTION: Liturgical ministers should be mature Christians who have by their actual Christian living shown that they have taken their faith seriously. They should embody the Christian life of service. Efforts should be made to be all-inclusive in the selection of the liturgical ministers.

IMPLEMENTATION OF POLICY:

Mandated:

1. Extraordinary Ministers of Communion
 - a. Extraordinary Ministers of Communion are to be faith-filled men and women, who lead a good Christian life, are at least sixteen years of age and have been confirmed.
 - b. The role of the Extraordinary Ministers of Communion is to assist the ordinary minister (deacon, priest, bishop) when needed.
 - c. The pastor or parish life coordinator is to consult the parish pastoral council in choosing Extraordinary Ministers of Communion.
 - d. The men and women are then prepared/trained for their service.
 - e. A special commissioning service takes place in the presence of the gathered assembly.
 - f. The Extraordinary Ministers are appointed for an indefinite time. However, pastors and parish life coordinators are encouraged to make every effort to give others the opportunity to serve.
2. Lectors
 - a. Men and women who possess a love of the Scriptures and a gift for public reading are prepared for this ministry.
 - b. The approval of the pastor confirms the selection of these ministers.
 - c. The training includes the use of the Lectionary. Special emphasis is given to the customs of the parish.
3. Ministers of Hospitality/Ushers
 - a. These Ministers are to be chosen from the faithful to serve the community at its Sunday Liturgies.
 - b. The Ministers welcome the assembly, attend the needs of seating, and assist at the Offertory collections.
4. Altar Servers
 - a. The pastor shall approve the young men and women desiring to serve at the altar.
 - b. The parish determines the minimum age for servers.
 - c. Special training is given prior to serving at Mass.

PREPARATION OF LITURGICAL MINISTERS

INTRODUCTION: Each parish is to form its own policy and guidelines for its liturgical ministers in accord with the diocesan policies.

IMPLEMENTATION OF POLICY:

Mandated:

1. A careful calling forth of ministers is encouraged so that the faith of both minister and community is deepened through the particular service. The ministers should reflect the cultural groups in the parish.
2. Each member should have an understanding of the nature of the ministry to which he/she is giving service. Responsibilities are to be clearly explained so that the person considering the ministry knows the expectations.
3. Special training sessions for each ministry are offered at least once a year. No person can be expected to take on a new ministry without proper training.
4. The parish determines the number of years a person may serve in the different liturgical ministries.
5. Ministers are urged to attend workshops, retreats, and days of recollection. These dates and times are to be communicated to all liturgical ministers.
6. Parishioners of all ages are encouraged to participate as liturgical ministers, with the exception of those ministries which require a specific age.
7. The parish determines the guidelines for proper attire for each ministry.

Approved +Michael J. Jurek

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