



Eucharistic Ministers of Holy Communion at Mass

- ◆ All ministers of Holy Communion should show the greatest reverence for the Most Holy Eucharist by their demeanor, their attire (please, no shorts, short skirts, jeans, tennis shoes, low cut shirts, tank tops), and the manner in which they handle the consecrated bread or consecrated wine.
- ◆ Nine Ministers are required for each weekend Mass and are to step up to the Sacristy after the Sign of Peace. It is required that you wash your hands with sanitizer prior to entering the sacristy.
- ◆ After the priest has concluded his own Communion, he gives Holy Communion to the Extraordinary Ministers.
- ◆ After all Extraordinary Ministers of Holy communion have received Holy Communion, the priest hands the sacred vessels to them for distribution to the people.
- ◆ When ministering the Body of Christ, the minister raises the consecrated bread for the communicant to see, looks at the communicant while saying the words, "The Body of Christ". The communicant bows her/his head and responds "Amen". The minister places the Body of Christ in the communicant's hand or on the tongue.
- ◆ When ministering the Blood of Christ, the minister raises the chalice for the communicant to see, looks at the communicant while saying the words, "The Blood of Christ." The communicant bows her/his head and responds "Amen". The minister carefully gives the chalice to the communicant and after receiving it back wipes the rim of the chalice, inside and outside, and turn the chalice before offering it to the next person. Please use a clean part of the purificator with each turn of the chalice.
- ◆ Do not use the communicant's name when ministering the Holy Communion. The proper and only permissible form for distributing Holy communion is to offer the consecrated bread.
- ◆ Drinking from the chalice is the normative practice of receiving the precious blood. Self-intinction is never allowed.
- ◆ When you have finished distributing the consecrated bread bring your vessel to the tabernacle for the sacristan can transfer any remaining hosts to the ciborium.
- ◆ When you have finished distributing the consecrated wine bring your vessel to the credence table where you should consume what remains of the Precious Blood from your chalice. If you cannot consume the remaining wine, the sacristan will consume or find someone to consume it for you.
- ◆ At least three ministers are required to remain after mass to immediately purify the vessels. Please be respectful of both the body and the blood of Christ that remain in the vessels. All chalices and ciboria must be rinsed carefully and the excess water poured in a plant, outside, or in the sacrarium.
- ◆ If the precious blood is spilled cover it with your purificator and get another one from the altar to continue on. Inform the Sacristan.
- ◆ If the precious body is dropped, either pick it up and consume it or take it to the tabernacle and inform the Sacristan. If there are any crumbs on the floor be sure to pick them up too.

Eucharistic Ministers / Glossary

- ◆ **Altar:** The table of sacrifice and of the Eucharistic meal; it represents Christ and therefore is revered by a bow. The gifts of bread and wine to be used in the sacrifice of the Mass are placed on this table.
- ◆ **Sanctuary:** The place where the altar stands, the Word of God is proclaimed, and the Priest and the other ministers exercise their sacred functions.
- ◆ **Lectionary:** A book of Scriptural readings assigned for use at Mass.
- ◆ **Communicant:** The person receiving Holy Communion.
- ◆ **Corporal:** A large linen cloth placed on the altar and used during Mass and liturgical celebrations involving the Blessed Sacrament.
- ◆ **Tabernacle:** A sacred and secure container in which the ciborium with the Body of Christ is reserved for Communion.
- ◆ **Credence Table:** Part of the sanctuary furnishings. A small side table usually covered with a white cloth. The chalice, paten, extra chalices and plates for Holy Communion are placed here until needed.
- ◆ **Sacred Vessels:** The chalice, ciborium, used as container for the consecrated Bread and Wine.
- ◆ **Ciborium:** A covered vessel resembling a large chalice or dish used for ministering Communion or reserving the Body of Christ in the tabernacle.
- ◆ **Pall:** Linen covered squares used to cover the wine before it is taken to the Altar for consecration.
- ◆ **Purificator:** A linen cloth used to catch any of the Precious Blood that may drip from the chalice during reception of the precious blood. It is used to wipe the chalice after each communicant receives.
- ◆ **Sacrarium:** A sink in the sacristy that drains direction into the earth.