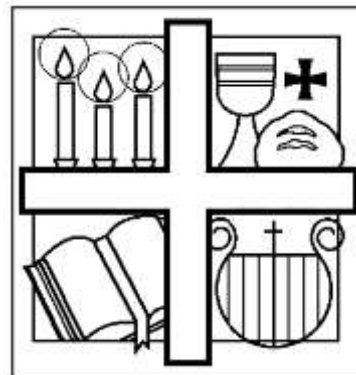


PROCEDURES FOR MINISTERS OF HOLY COMMUNION

St. Mary's Church

The Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion (EM) assists at Mass through the distribution of Holy Communion. Some of these ministers take Communion to the sick, the dying, those imprisoned, and others unable to celebrate the Eucharist with the parish community.

“Extraordinary” is a term meant to distinguish the lay minister from the “ordinary” ministers of Communion: Priests, deacons, and instituted acolytes. The following information is meant to assist Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion.



-7 ministers, including priest, are required at the 8:30am & 10:30am liturgies. (3 bread & 4 wine)

-5 ministers, including priest, are required at the 4:30pm liturgy. (3 bread & 2 wine)

-When a deacon or con-celebrant is present; one of his roles in the liturgy is to be an ordinary minister of Communion.

Gathering

Meet in Commons 10 minutes before liturgy begins. This allows for:

- a. Finding additional ministers if necessary and acknowledging substitutes
- b. Prayer with presider and other liturgical ministers

The Communion Rite: Sharing of Meal

Hand washing before distributing Holy Communion:

1. After the sign of peace, all Eucharistic Ministers exit through the Commons doors, take an immediate left, proceed up the steps, entering the side sacristy (where chairs, music stands, and microphones are stored).
2. On the right wall, facing the sanctuary door, hand sanitizer is located on a shelf, and is available for washing hands in a timely fashion, before entering the sanctuary.
3. Move forward into the sanctuary, around the altar, in a half circle, as usual.

(All ministers should be around the altar by the end of the Lamb of God)

4. The Body and Blood of the Lord are presented by the priest saying, “Behold the Lamb of God, who takes away” (GIRM para. 84)

5. After the priest consumes the sacred Body and Blood of the Lord, he distributes Holy Communion to the ministers around him and passes out the vessels.

-“When receiving Holy Communion, the **communicant bows his or her head** before the Sacrament as a gesture of reverence before receiving the Body and Blood of the Lord...”(GIRM para. 160)

6. All ministers move to distribute to the rest of the faithful. *(don't forget servers)*

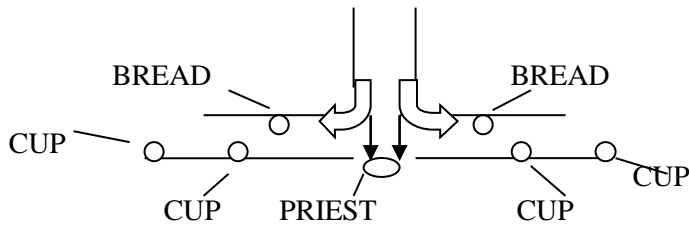
-**presider distributes to servers** along with one minister of the blood of Christ.

-other Eucharistic Ministers move immediately to distribute to those who cannot process ***do not wait for presider to move down the stairs first**

-be attentive to the number of communicants and break hosts only if necessary

-when your plate/cup is empty; place vessels on the credence table or hand to servers and return to assembly.

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7. All ministers stand on main floor of church. The bread ministers should be far enough in to allow room for one, if not two communicants to move out of the main aisle, while others continue moving towards priest. *At or beyond the first leg of the front pew is appropriate.*

****do not place purificator INTO cup, The vessels cannot be purified with the purificator inside them. Just lay the purificator on the credence table when you're done with distribution.***

8. When finished with distribution, combine sacred body and blood of Christ to distribute to the music ministers.

(please wait near credence tables for completion of Communion hymn)

-allow for more ministers to assist with giving Communion to choir

-with larger choirs, **wait on main floor near tabernacle** to distribute

If the music ministers are still singing, remain off to one side until they are finished.

9. After last music minister receives, the last remaining minister is to place remaining hosts in ciborium on the altar and return it to the tabernacle. Consume any sacred blood remaining at the credence (side) table. Return to seat.

-a gesture of reverence is necessary for the reserved sacrament.

Things to consider during the Communion Procession:

-those preparing for First Communion or Non-Catholics; will come forward with hands crossed on chest. The church encourages all to seek to increase spiritual communion, that is, in one's heart. It is appropriate to impart a blessing to non-communicants by saying 'May God bless you' or trace the sign of the cross on their forehead.

-for those who choose to receive on the tongue: Hold tip of host. Place other end gently on tongue of recipient.

-The communicant, including the extraordinary minister, is never allowed to self-communicate, even by means of intinction. Communion under any form, bread or wine, must always be given by an ordinary or extraordinary minister of Holy Communion. –NDRHC, #50

- Say the words "The Body of Christ" or "The Blood of Christ" with confidence and clarity as a statement of our faith seeing Christ in each communicant. No extra gestures are needed. No one who distributes Holy Communion may modify these words (GIRM #161, 286-287)

-A pyx may be in the large plate of hosts; it contains a low-gluten host for a parishioner who suffers from celiac disease (allergy to gluten). Priest distributes this to the communicant.

Thank you for your ministry!!

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