

EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS OF HOLY COMMUNION (EMHCs)

Training days:

- Main day: Saturday, October 13th, 9am
- Make up: Friday, October 17th, 6pm

Requirements:

- Must be at least age 16.
- They must be fully initiated into the Church with the sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation and Eucharist.
- Must always ensure that their lives are in conformity with the teachings of the Church, **including the teaching on married life and publicly affirm the magisterium of the Church.**

FAQs:

- *Who are Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion (aka EMHC)?*
They are men and women mandated by the Archbishop of Denver to share in the apostolic work of the Church when a true pastoral need exists as determined by the pastor, administrator or chaplain of a parish or institution.
- *What is the correct term, Eucharistic Minister or an EMHC?*
“Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion” is the correct terminology. The phrases “Eucharistic” or “communion” minister blur the distinction between the ordained and the non-ordained. EMHCs are members of the laity who have received a mandate from the Archbishop to assist in the distribution of Holy Communion when there is a genuine pastoral need. The responsibilities of EMHCs include the reverent and secure distribution of Holy Communion and the cleansing of the sacred vessels, if requested to do so by an ordinary minister. EMHCs do not distribute communion when a sufficient number of ordinary ministers (bishops, priests, deacons) are present at the Eucharist.
- *How long can I be an EMHC?*
“One receives mandation to serve in this capacity for up to a four-year period. Continuation of service should not be presumed, but rather specifically determined by the pastor prior to renewal.”
- *If one is already an EMHC, does one still need to take a class?*
Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion should receive, on a regular basis, ongoing theological and spiritual formation for this holy and important undertaking. Minimally, this formation occurs once every three years; yearly formation is highly encouraged.
- *If one sings or helps usher/lector can one be an EMHC at the same Mass?*
Pastors and chaplains should develop the full complement of ministries that function in the celebration of the Eucharist. Therefore, it is preferable that EMHCs do not serve as lectors, ushers, altar servers or choir members at the same Mass.
- *It is getting harder to help EMHC because of physical limits, what should one do?*
When an individual’s capability to function well as an EMHC is inhibited due to illness or age, mandation is not to be requested. They might be invited to serve the parish in some other way.