

PROCEDURES FOR EXTRA-ORDINARY MINISTERS OF THE EUCHARIST AT SUNDAY MASS

- E.M.'s are expected to arrive at least 10 minutes before Mass is scheduled to begin, please check in with Father in the sacristy
- Spend some time in the Church to pray – ask God to help you grow in love for the Holy Eucharist and to distribute His Body in a reverent manner
- Join the other ministers and the celebrant in the Entrance Procession by walking in pairs behind the Altar Servers and before the Ministers of the Word
- At the front of the Church, line up across the front facing the Altar. Ministers are asked to bow slightly and genuflect with the celebrant
- Then return to your family in the pews
- At the **sign of peace**, come forward into the sanctuary
- First purify your fingers in the glass bowl on the credence table and then wait at the credence table until after the celebrant has received Holy Communion
- After the celebrant receives Holy Communion, come forward and line up between the pulpit and the altar
- Before the celebrant gives you Holy Communion bow before receiving the Sacred Host.
- The celebrant will then give you a ciboria of Hosts which you will take to your Communion Station and distribute the Body of Christ
- To each Communicant, hold up the Sacred Host and clearly say 'The Body of Christ'
- Place the Host on the Communicant's tongue or hands – which ever the Communicant indicates
- If your line finishes early, please move to another line and assist that minister
- When Communion is finished, place your ciboria on the corporal – the square cloth at the center of the altar
- Go to the credence table and purify your fingers
- Wait for all the ministers to return and for the celebrant to place the remaining Hosts in the Tabernacle, bow and then return to your seat

GENERAL POINTS

- When there is a second Priest or a Deacon present at mass, one of the E.M.'s will need to step aside, since it is the rightful place of the ordained clergy, as ordinary ministers of the Eucharist, to distribute Holy Communion. Your role is extra-ordinary; to assist only when ordained clergy are not available.
- Extra-ordinary Ministers of the Eucharist must be fully initiated Catholics and may not be less than sixteen years of age
- The role of the Extra-Ordinary Minister should be distinct from other liturgical roles whereas you cannot double as a minister of the Word, Commentator, or usher during the same celebration.
- If unable to fulfill your schedule time, it is your responsibility to find a replacement

PERSONAL

- An E.M. should be a faithful, active member of this parish community in good standing with the Church.
- An E.M. should regularly celebrate the Sacraments and strive to make the Holy Eucharist an important part of his/her life. It would be a grave abuse to celebrate the Eucharist only when scheduled to read.

DRESS

- As a minister of the Church at the service of God and His people, an E.M. should dress appropriately to distribute the Holy Eucharist. Men should wear a shirt, tie and dress pants. Women should wear a dress or blouse and skirt or dress slacks. It is never appropriate to wear jeans, t-shirts or shorts, and gym attire while carrying out this solemn ministry.

WHAT ABOUT THOSE SEEKING A BLESSING

- When someone, child or adult, comes forward in the Communion line and desires a blessing – simply extend your hand slightly and say "Christ be with you"
- Do not make the Sign of the Cross on their forehead and do not place your hand on their head or shoulder

Lord, Jesus,

I am deeply grateful for having been given the privilege of bringing Your Body and Blood to those who Celebrate Eucharist with us.

May I always be aware, like Mary, as she held You in her arms, of your constant nearness to each one of us at all times.

May that intimacy never be forgotten and may it be a constant source of grace for me.

Amen



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St. Ann's Roman Catholic Church
Hamilton, Ontario