

St. Joseph Catholic Church Liturgical Ministeries

EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS OF HOLY COMMUNION

Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion are appointed by the priest so that Communion may be distributed in a reverent and orderly manner. By the nature of this ministry, these ministers should show the greatest reverence for the Eucharist by their demeanor, attire, and the manner in which they handle the consecrated bread or wine.

- Arrive 15 minutes before Mass begins, and enter the sacristy at the right side door by Mary and Joseph to check in.
- At the sign of peace, walk up on either side of the altar, sanitize hands and line up along the step.
- After receiving Communion, the priest will hand a paten or chalice, which you will take to one of four locations.
 - Paten: two lines in center aisle
 - Chalice: at each corner to the left and right at the front of the church
- Distribution of the consecrated bread and wine:
 - Paten: When each communicant approaches, reverently hold up the consecrated Host and say, “The Body of Christ,” to which they respond, “Amen.” Place it in their hand or on their tongue, depending on which method they prefer.
 - Chalice: Reverently hold up the chalice between you and the communicant and say, “The Blood of Christ.” After they respond, “Amen,” gently hand the chalice to them, making sure the person has a good grip on it. After the person has handed the chalice back to you, wipe the place where they drank and slightly turn the chalice.
- In the case that one should come up with their arms crossed for a blessing, without touching them say, “Christ’s blessing to you,” or a similar appropriate blessing.
- If any particle of the consecrated bread falls, it should be picked up reverently by the minister. He or she may either consume it or hold on to it to be dissolved in water and poured down the sacrarium after Mass.
- Once everyone has received Communion, walk back to the altar to place paten or chalice on the credence table on the side of the altar, then return to your seat.
- Remember that Jesus’ Presence is true and equal in both species, whether as Body or Blood, so there is no need to bow at the tabernacle while holding the paten or chalice with consecrated wine or hosts.

Prayer for Extraordinary Ministers:

*God of Love and Mercy,
with reverence and humility I approach the Eucharist and this ministry.
Grant me the grace to help others encounter you in this sacrament.
I ask through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.*