

St. Stephen Church

EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS OF HOLY COMMUNION

Number/ Mass	3 BREAD; 6 CUP for each Mass. When the Deacon is present: 2 BREAD; 6 CUP
Purpose	Extraordinary Ministers assist the priest to distribute Holy Communion.
General Requirements	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Trained to handle the ciboria or cup /purificator in a respectful and reverent manner. 2. Be neatly and appropriately dressed: you never know when you'll be needed to fill in. 3. Arrive early to Mass and check the medallion board for medallions needed. 4. If the cantor announces that we need additional ministers- <u>Please get a Medallion at that Time to avoid</u> confusion later. <u>Do Not</u> come forward as distribution begins. Wheat with green dot= Lead Minister; Wheat=Bread; Grapes=Wine
Responsibilities ~ <i>Extraordinary ministers are to be fully initiated Catholics [Baptized and Confirmed], at least 16 years of age, who lead a life in harmony with the undertaking of this ministry including participating in the sacramental life of the Church.</i> ~ <i>If someone distributes Communion questionably, please notify Father or ask them to see Father after Mass.</i> ~	<p>Prepare for the Liturgy Be of prayerful spirit - Wash your hands - Sit anywhere in the congregation.</p> <p>During the Liturgy As the Our Father begins, the Lead Minister will bring the Body of Christ from the Tabernacle in the Chapel to the Altar. (The Key will be in the Tabernacle)</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Come forward after the <u>Sign of Peace</u>. 2. Hand sanitizer will be on a pedestal at the base of the altar step rails. 3. Stand at floor level (below steps) on either side of the altar. Position yourselves before stepping into Sanctuary. If you cannot kneel, stand closer to the rail. Wait at the steps (kneeling or standing) until Father consumes the Body of Christ. When Father's hand is on the Chalice, come forward to the designated positions at the altar. 4. You will receive Communion from the priest or deacon around the altar. 5. If a deacon is not present, the Lead Minister will follow Father and distribute the Blood of Christ to the other ministers. 6. After you receive the cup, please see to it that the Bread Ministers and Acolytes nearest to you also have had a chance to receive the Cup. 7. Proceed to the designated areas, for the rest of the congregation to receive. There should be one Cup Minister on either side of each Bread Minister. 8. As each communicant comes forward, you will say "The Blood of Christ" or "The Body of Christ." The communicant should respond "Amen", (if they don't, say it for them) after which you will hand the host/cup to the communicant (<i>The host <u>should not</u> be dipped in the cup. Wait for them to consume the host.</i>) 9. Unfold the purificator fully. After the communicant hands the cup back to you, wipe both the inner and outer rim of the cup with the purificator and give the cup a slight ¼ turn before handing it to the next person. 10. When your cup is empty, please return to the credence table (side ledge.) You should do this by walking <i>behind</i> the other ministers and priests who are still serving. If your cup is not empty, you should consume the remainder of the Precious Blood if you are able. Enlist someone to help you consume all of it. 11. The unused Body of Christ is placed on the altar in its ciboria. The Lead Minister takes the Body of Christ and reposes it in the Tabernacle in the Chapel and then takes the Tabernacle key to the Sacristy. 12. Ministers will remain in the sanctuary lined up behind the presider's chair until Father bows at the altar. All ministers <u>come to the front of the altar</u>, bow together and return to their seats in any direction. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Some ministers will need to carry the vessels back to the sacristy for purification and help clean up.

Extraordinary Eucharistic Ministers must be fully initiated Catholics in good standing. That means they have received the Sacraments of Baptism and Confirmation and participate faithfully in the celebration of the Eucharist. Liturgy ministers live their lives in such a way that their love for the Mass is evident by their regular active participation in it.

- The proper and only permissible form for distributing Holy Communion is to offer the consecrated bread by saying, "The Body of Christ" and to offer the consecrated wine by saying, "The Blood of Christ." No other words or names should be added; and the formula should not be edited in any way. (Cf. GIRM, 161; 284-287).
- If the Eucharistic bread or some particle of it falls, it should be picked up reverently by the minister. The consecrated bread may be consumed or completely dissolved in water before being poured down the *sacrarium*.
- Should there be any mishap, for example, if the consecrated wine is spilled from the chalice, the area should be washed and the water poured into the *sacrarium*.
- **In those instances when there remains more consecrated wine than was necessary, if needs dictate, Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion may consume what remains of the Precious Blood from their cup of distribution with the permission of the diocesan bishop. The sacred vessels are to be purified by the priest, the deacon or an instituted acolyte. The amount of wine to be consecrated should be carefully measured before the celebration so that none remains afterward. It is strictly forbidden to pour the Precious Blood into the ground or into the *sacrarium*. (NDRHC, 51-55).**
- Similarly, "consecrated hosts are to be reserved in a ciborium or vessel in sufficient quantity for the needs of the faithful; they are to be frequently renewed and the old hosts properly consumed" (*Code of Canon Law, no. 939*). *Burying hosts or consecrated Eucharistic bread is strictly forbidden. USCCB*



