

Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion Training – St. Joseph’s – Sunday Mass (Updated September 2018)

Come to the sacristy at least 15 minutes before Mass begins. If you are not in the sacristy by 10 minutes before Mass, we will look for another EM to replace you. Sign in to one of the open slots for the Body or Blood of Christ. The numbers correspond to the section of pews, and “H” means host and “C” means chalice. If there are other clerics than just the presider, we will not need as many EM’s.

After the Sign of Peace (when the Lamb of God chant begins), leave your pew, and walk behind the sanctuary to stand next to the credence table remembering to bow to the altar if you pass it on the way. Do not give each other the sign of peace – that time has passed. You are preparing now to distribute the Lord’s Body and Blood.

The priest or deacon will retrieve the ciborium with the Body of Christ from the Eucharistic chapel.

After all priests and deacons receive from the chalice, all EM’s bow to the altar and come into the sanctuary. Please stand on the spot you are signed up for to distribute either the Body or Blood of Christ.

If you are distributing the Blood of Christ, please take the chalice and the purificator that that priest/deacon gives to you. EM who is C1 will offer the Blood of Christ to EM’s who will be distributing the Body of Christ. EM who is closest to the altar servers distributing the Blood of Christ goes to servers to offer the Blood of Christ.

After everyone has their vessels, please go to your spots. (Map in sacristy shows spots).

When distributing Communion, depending on the species you are distributing you will either say to the person, “The Body of Christ” or “The Blood of Christ”. With the chalice, please wipe the spot the person drank from and rotate the chalice. No need to unfold purificators, you can keep them the way you receive them to wipe the chalice.

We will no longer be putting hosts in pyx’s in the Communion line. If someone presents a pyx, tell them to see the priest or deacon after Mass, and they will get them a host. As priests, we want to know where the Eucharist is going so that if it is someone who has never been visited by a priest that we can visit them. This also helps guard against abuses.

If you see someone not consume the host, please stop them and ask them to consume. If they resist, tell the priest immediately. Likewise if someone keeps the host and wants to dip it in the chalice, please tell them they need to consume the host and that they can only drink from the chalice. The reason for this is that we receive communion, we don’t take communion. Therefore, they cannot dip their host, they must receive the chalice.

If a host drops on the floor, pick it up and consume it immediately. If you do not feel comfortable doing so, set it on the corporal on the altar, and the priest will consume after distribution.

EM’s cannot give blessings like priests and deacons can. To avoid confusion and keep things uniform, the diocese recommends simply say “May God Bless you.” Because you may have particles of the Body of Christ on your fingers, please do not place your hand on people who come forward for a blessing.

The priest (and the deacon) will take care of getting communion to people who cannot walk forward in line. The ushers will assist us in this. We will not distribute the Blood of Christ to those unable to walk forward for safety reasons – if they have mobility issues, they may have trouble holding the chalice and we don’t want to drop the Blood of Christ. When we receive either the Body of Christ or the Blood of Christ we receive the fullness of Christ, so it is not necessary to receive both.

After your communion line is finished, please go back to the altar. If you have any Precious Blood left in your chalice, you may consume it at the altar, and only at the altar, and then place the empty chalice on the altar with

your purificator placed on top of the chalice. If you would prefer not to finish your chalice, please place it on the altar with your purificator placed on top of the chalice. If there is a lot of Precious Blood left in your chalice, please at least consume a little of it or ask another EM to consume some so the priest does not have to consume all of it.

After all the EMs have put their vessels on the altar, any who distributed the Body of Christ please dip their fingers in the ablution bowl and wipe fingers on the purificator. Then all wait reverently in the same place you started until the priest or deacon returns Jesus to the tabernacle. As the priest or deacon exits the Eucharistic chapel, please bow to the altar. Then you may return to your pew remembering to bow to the altar if you pass it on the way.

Things to note:

-Your official title is: “Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion” not Eucharistic Minister. Why? You assist the Ordinary Minister(s) which are the priests and deacons when there is a need.

-You do not distribute bread and wine, so please stop saying that. You distribute the Body and Blood of Christ. You may use the term “host” for the Body of Christ, and you may use “paten” or “chalice” since those are the vessels, but when you receive those vessels they are no longer bread and wine.

***Dress your best. You are in a public ministry, but even more importantly you are entering the house of God to worship Him. Even if you are not assigned to a ministry at a particular Mass, you may be called upon to sub, and you are also an example to others.

*****Note – If you cannot make it to serve as an EM when you are assigned, it is your responsibility to get a substitute. Always take or print a schedule and mark your calendar, you will not be reminded when you are scheduled.**

Appendix: Bringing Holy Communion to the homebound on Sundays or after Daily Mass .

Only Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion from our parishes may do this, and you can only do this in our parish boundaries. You are not able to do so for another parish unless trained and delegated there.

Talk to the priest or deacon after Mass. Tell the priest or deacon who you are going to visit so that we can keep track of who is being visited and with what regularity as well as updating our parish homebound list if needed.

The priest or deacon will then go to the tabernacle and give you the number of hosts you need in a pyx with a purificator and booklets.

You must go directly to where the homebound person is (e.g. no stopping in gathering space to talk/coffee/etc). As you drive, be mindful of our Lord’s presence, not turning on the radio (unless it is sacred music), and avoiding idle conversation if there are passengers.

-After being welcomed into the house/meeting place, invite the recipient to quiet themselves

-Offer Holy Communion using the booklet “Ordinary Rite of Communion to the Sick or Homebound”

-Certainly you can have a short visit with the person. However, please keep this visit according to the awareness that you still may be in possession of the Holy Eucharist for others on your list.

-If you end up with extra hosts, please bring them back to the tabernacle if possible. If not, please consume them. Then purify the pyx by using a few drops of water and wiping out the pyx with the purificator. Please bring back pyx and purificator to the church at next earliest opportunity. Purificator goes in soiled linen basket.

***We will have a more formal training for those who bring Holy Communion to the homebound. This appendix is meant to help us in the meantime.