

Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion

An Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion (EMHC) should arrive for Mass 5-10 minutes. We will NOT be using the EMHC crosses. EMHCs are now being scheduled through MSP.

Typical EMHCs needed per Mass: Sat 5p – 1; Sun 8:00a – 3; Sun 10:30a – 3; Sun 6p – 1

At the “Lamb of God” come forward and sanitize your hands at the front of the center aisle. Then line up on the St Joseph side of altar servers at foot of sanctuary steps. After Father receives both the Body and Precious Blood, ministers come up steps and stand on St Joseph side of altar area. Father will bring the Body of Christ to all EMHCs.

At 8a and 10:30a

Fr. will give the person nearest the Tabernacle and back wall a paten (bowl). They will take Holy Communion to the non-ambulatory on St Joseph side and then take their spot on the blue marker in the middle of the front short pew.

The second, middle EMHC will receive the Ciborium and will take the alternate spot of Fr. at the other kneeler.

The third EMHC, nearest the pews, will receive a paten (bowl). They will take Holy Communion to the non-ambulatory on St Mary side and then take their spot on the blue marker in the middle of the front short pew.

All move to take places for distribution at the same time. The Body of Christ will be distributed from behind the kneelers stands on each side of the front steps. Father will alternate sides each week, so please take the side Father does not take.

EMHC will first take Communion to the non-ambulatory parishioners in the front pews on your respective side (if there are any). If you are an EMHC on Joseph’s side, after the last of parishioners, please provide Communion to the cantors/musicians.

As much as possible, please try to make eye contact with each communicant. Be respectful and pleasant. Remember, you are serving Christ in each person to whom you minister! When offering a consecrated host, say only the words “**The Body of Christ.**” The recipient should say “Amen.” When offering the chalice, say only the words “**The Blood of Christ.**”

After distribution is complete: please hand the ciborium (or bowls) to Fr.

Father will transfer all remaining hosts to the ciborium. (Altar servers will carry empty-purified chalices to credence table.) Proceed to foot of the steps and line up as at “Lamb of God”. Once Fr. has placed the ciborium back into the Tabernacle and has closed it, all EMHCs bow to altar together and return to seats.

If you have a chalice, return to the altar. Consume the remaining Blood of Christ, or ask another minister to assist if needed. Then place chalice on altar and cover with purificator. Father will purify the chalices and servers will return to them to the credence table.

In case we need to contact all EMHCs, please keep your contact up-to-date by providing your name and email address by sending an email to info@holyfamilynewalbany.org or by calling the parish office (812-944-8283 ext 0). Thank you for being an Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion. Our parish appreciates the ministry you are providing!

Questions? Please contact: Adam Welp
812-406-6117
adam.welp@twc.com

Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion

Frequently Asked Questions:

1: What if a consecrated host falls on the floor? NEVER THROW IT AWAY! Each consecrated host is the Body of the Lord. Please retrieve the host and either consume it yourself or bring it to Father when you return your paten to the altar for his consumption. Keep it in your hand with the paten, until you return to the Tabernacle if you don't consume it immediately.

2: What if the Blood of Christ spills on the floor? Use the purificator that you were handed to cover the spill. Retrieve a couple of clean purificators from the sacristy if it is a larger spill. Dab up the spilled Precious Blood with the purificator. Once the spill has been cleaned, cover the area with another clean purificator so that people know not to step on that spot. If Holy Communion is still being distributed, you can resume distribution of the Precious Blood. Once Mass has ended, inform the Sacristan of the spill, and they will handle the remaining clean-up.

3: What if someone wants Communion orally? Carefully place the host on the person's tongue taking care to make sure that your hands never touch the person's mouth.

4: What is a pyx and when will I see one? A pyx is a tiny ciborium or 'tabernacle' used to transport Holy Communion to homebound and patients in the hospital. If someone walks up to you with an open pyx, they should indicate how many hosts to place in the pyx or if not, you should ask. Once the pyx is closed, you can then give the person their own Communion.

5: What should I do if someone asks for an extra host to take back to their pew for their aging parent or spouse? While this practice is not ideal or preferred, you may give them 1 extra Host to do as they indicate.

6: Can I say the name of the person to whom I am giving Communion? No. The Roman Missal, which included instructions for distribution, states either "Body of Christ" or "Blood of Christ" as appropriate. (The use of the personal name is exclusive unless you know 100% of congregants.)

7: Should I bless infants and children who come to Communion with their parents? What about people who come forward with their hands crossed over their chest? Yes, this has become a common (albeit not fully approved) practice. Without any gesture of your hands, simply say to the person (these or similar words) "May God bless you." Do not make the Sign-of-the-Cross.

8: Should I serve as an EMHC if I am sick with a common cold or dressed inappropriately (mini-skirt, torn or dirty clothing)? If you feel sick or 'under the weather,' it would be best for you not to minister that day. Regarding attire, it would be best that you always dress in attire for Mass that would be appropriate for ministry.

9: If I am an EMHC, do I have to serve at every Mass I attend? What about bringing Holy Communion to homebound parishioners? You never have to serve, although Father may appeal for ministers when needed. Please feel free to serve as an EMHC at any Mass you attend whenever you are willing and able to serve in that ministry, but it is certainly not required. Bringing Holy Communion to the homebound is a separate ministry, not associated with serving as an EMHC at Mass. If you would like to serve in one or both of those ministries, please contact the parish office. Visiting the homebound is an important ministry, often in need of volunteers.

10: How and when are EMHCs commissioned and how long do EMHCs serve in that ministry? All EMHCs will be re-commissioned at the annual Corpus Christi Masses in June and/or the Church Dedication Anniversary Mass in September. There are not "terms" for EMHC. If you decide to discontinue, please inform the parish office.

11. What about cleaning up after Mass? These duties require additional training, just like setting up before Mass. If you would like to learn more about the duties of a Sacristan, please contact our Sacristan Coordinator or the parish office.