

# Guidelines for Extra-ordinary Ministers of Holy Communion

First and foremost, thank you for your ministry to the people of God at St Augustines. Your willingness to serve in this important capacity is most appreciated.

1. Please arrive at the church no less than 10 minutes prior to the start of mass. Report to the Sacristy and check you name off the provided list as present.
2. Dress appropriately. You are serving your fellow parishioners in a very important and Holy ministry.
3. You are welcome to sit with your family to celebrate mass, however, Father has requested that you take your seat in the first two pews in the center section. If you are a choir member, please come down to the front pews before the Lamb of God.
4. Please remain kneeling until Father receives from the cup. When coming forward the servers will distribute hand sanitizer at the foot of the stairs. Please make sure you reverence the altar before entering the Sanctuary.
5. Father and/or the Deacon will distribute the vessels the first minister to receive his/her cup, serves the Host ministers. The second serves the altar servers. There is no need to stop and reverence the altar when passing in front...you are carrying the Blessed Sacrament in your hands.
6. When taking your position in the church to minister communion, please make sure you cross the church only in front the altar.
7. When a communicant approaches, raise the element (body or cup) to eye level saying: **The Body of Christ** or **The Blood of Christ**.
8. If someone, child or adult, approach you with arms folded...Give them a blessing by saying these or similar words: **May God Bless and Keep you. Do not at any time make the sign of the cross in front of them using the Host or the cup.**
9. Steve will accept communion only when the choir is present to sing. You do not need to minister communion to Steve at every mass. The choir sings at 8:00 a.m. every Sunday. On the first Sunday of each month, the choir sings at 10:30 a.m.
10. **Ministers of the Cup** - After finishing, consume the left over precious Blood and place the cup on the credence table covering the cup with the purificator and return to your position in the Sanctuary.
11. **Ministers of the Host** – Bring the ciborium to the side of the Altar and give it to the Deacon or Father for return to the tabernacle then return to your place in the Sanctuary.
12. **When the Blessed Sacrament is reposed**, and Father turns to face the congregation, reverence the Altar with a bow and return to your seats.

**General Comments:**

1. Please be mindful to switch positions with each other so to share in the experience of giving both the Body and Blood of Christ.
2. It is also important that we do not “double-up” on our ministries. If you are serving as lector, or an usher, you should not, if at all possible, serve as a Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion.
3. Above all, every action you make should be with the utmost respect and decorum in the presence of the Blessed Sacrament.