

NOTRE DAME  
CATHOLIC CHURCH  
HANDBOOK

-EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS  
OF HOLY COMMUNION-

*“If I, therefore, the master and teacher, have washed your feet, you ought to wash one another’s feet.” (John 13:14)*

The function of the Extraordinary (meaning “outside the ordinary”) Minister of Holy Communion is to serve the real presence of Christ in the bread and wine consecrated at Mass. The minister will have a genuine love for the Eucharist in order to share the joy of Holy Communion with all who partake.

## EXPECTATIONS:

Prepare yourself spiritually, both at home during the week and before Mass

Arrive at least 20 minutes prior to the beginning of the liturgy; at 15 minutes of, the designated minister will assign substitutes

Check yourself in at the Sign In Book, then be seated; spend some time in prayer and reflection

Be available to fill in for someone, if necessary

Be open to serving in either capacity – bread OR wine minister – unless there is a medical reason you cannot

Be seated close to the sanctuary (first 5 rows), on the end, and on the side of the church from which you will minister

Stay up-to-date on current practices; attend the annual liturgical ministry day of reflection and other available workshops and retreats as scheduled.

REMINDER: You may serve in only one ministry at any given Mass; please find a substitute when you are scheduled in another ministry

## PROCEDURES at the time of communion:

Rise and begin to move toward the sanctuary as the priest consumes the Body of Christ – this will ensure that all will be in place by the time he has consumed the Blood  
Wear a mask, sanitize before and after.

As a sign of reverence, stop at the steps of the sanctuary and make a *profound* bow to the altar

Do not speak to or shake hands with the other ministers – this can be done before Mass in the Narthex

After the sacred species have been distributed to all ministers, wait and let the Presider/Deacon pick their place you go to the open spot and move into your position. If you are the Traveler, follow the Usher immediately.

If there are people missing in certain positions, move immediately from your pew to fill that spot as you see the need.

Make eye contact with each communicant as they approach, and be welcoming in your demeanor – an inviting look and/or a smile

Allow the communicant to make their bow before offering communion

Slightly raise the host or cup and say “The Body of Christ”/ “The Blood of Christ” or “El Cuerpo de Cristo”/ “La Sangre de Cristo” –THESE ARE THE ONLY APPROVED WORDS – do not add names or any other words. Those Adults/Children that do not receive Eucharist, may come up with arms crossed over their chest. You may give them a blessing, “Receive Christ in your heart”.

Once you have finished or your ciborium is empty, place your vessel on the Altar—only the priest or deacon may purify the vessels, which they will do on the Altar.

Return to your pew as quickly and quietly as possible