

N.E.T. Catholic

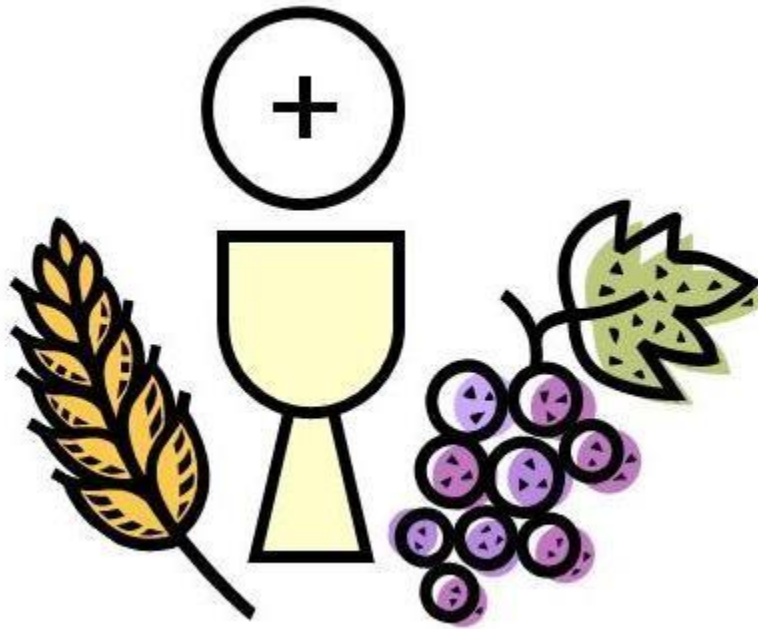
All Saints



Holy Cross



Saint Anthony



Extraordinary Ministers of
Holy Communion
Handbook

Dear Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion,

Thank you so much for accepting God's call to assist the ordinary ministers of Holy Communion (bishop, priest, deacon) in the distribution of Holy Communion. This is an awesome ministry that allows you to build a profound intimacy with our Eucharistic Lord. You get to be the one to feed God's children with the very Body, Blood, Soul and Divinity of Jesus Christ. Food of healing and salvation, nourishment for Eternal Life. It will be through your hands that Christ will come to and encounter those he loves and it is through your hands that your brothers and sisters will receive this greatest of gifts! What a tremendous blessing that has called you to this ministry.

It is of utmost importance that you do not take this ministry lightly and that you display profound reverence for the true presence of Our Lord in the Most Holy Eucharist.

It is also essential that you strive to honor the unity built by the Eucharist by living in such a way that all your deeds and words make you a builder of unity and one that cares for all the members of the Body of Christ, especially those who are rejected, poor, excluded, sick.

We will all work together to make this a very positive experience for you. It will be very helpful if you can arrive about 10 minutes early when you are scheduled for your ministry. That will allow you enough time to get ready and pray before Mass so that you do not feel nervous and rushed.

If you can serve at N.E.T. Catholic special services, such as Holy Days of Obligation, Holy Week, etc. and/or once in a while serve at our N.E.T. Catholic Sunday afternoon Masses, that will be tremendously helpful and much appreciated. We also are in great need of Ministers to bring Holy Communion to our brothers and sisters in the Nursing Home, so please let us know if you are willing to do this. You will be trained and you will not be scheduled more than once a month. This task takes about an hour.

Please let us know if you will be away, or if there are times of the year during which you should not be scheduled for your ministry. If you are scheduled and something comes up, please try to find a sub and/or please let us know.

Thank you,
Fr. Daniel

Please fill in the following form:

I want to receive the ministry schedule via email at: _____

I would be happy to serve at special liturgies yes _____ no _____

I be scheduled to serve at the following weekend Masses:

Saturday 4:30 pm @ St.A _____ Sunday 8:30 am @ H.C. _____

Sunday 10:30 am @ A.S. _____ Sunday 2:00 pm @ St. A _____

I want to serve as a minister to the Nursing Homes _____

Please return to Fr. Daniel at your earliest convenience.



**Prayer for
Extraordinary Ministers of Holy
Communion:**

“Loving Father, as we gather in your service, help us to fully understand the magnificence of your Son’s sacrifice for us and the wonder of your presence in the Holy Eucharist. Guide and instill in us perseverance and a willingness to do your will. Open our hearts to others as we invite them to your table to share your precious gifts. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ, who lives with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit one God for ever and ever. Amen”

Preparation

“The bread is Christ’s body, the cup is Christ’s blood. If you, therefore, are Christ’s body and members, it is your own mystery that is placed on the Lord’s table! It is your own mystery that you are receiving! Be a member of Christ’s body, then, so that your Amen may ring true! Be what you see; receive what you are.” Saint Augustine

Do all you can to deepen your faith in and relationship with Jesus in the Eucharist. Attend Mass as often as possible during the week and spend time in prayer before the Blessed Sacrament. At home, reflect on the beauty of this gift. In your life, live as a builder of unity, set aside all gossip and tendency to sow division.

Before Mass

1. Come directly to the Sacristy, and put a checkmark next to your name on the liturgical ministers schedule on the bulletin board.
2. Then take a moment, pause and say the prayer for Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion.
7. Check with the priest to be sure there are no changes to the standard procedure because of special liturgies (Communion, Anniversaries, special blessings, etc.) or additional participants (priests, servers, speakers, etc.). Then, go to your seat.

Before distributing communion

1. As soon as the sign of peace begins, if you are the one in charge of this, immediately go to the Tabernacle, open it, bow or genuflect, retrieve the blessed Sacrament and reverently bring it to the priest, then immediately return to your seat. Once you return to your seat that would be the time for you to share the sign of peace if you want to do so, not before you retrieve the Blessed Sacrament. Please note that having an Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion retrieve the Most Holy Eucharist from the tabernacle is an exception and special provision that is against the rules, which indicate that an ordained minister should do this. This exception is only acceptable

because of Father's physical limitation. When you get a different pastor, who has no physical disabilities this practice is to cease immediately.

While Distributing Communion

1. After the Lamb of God, and after the priest takes communion, when Father says please stand, stand and approach the sanctuary, stand in front of the altar and bow. Then ascend to the sanctuary and stand behind the priest for communion. Be reverent and take your time, but be natural at the same time, do not draw attention to yourself. If you are not 100% sure on your feet, **please use the railing to go up and down the stairs. If the people can have the slightest concern about your safety, your failure to use the railing will distract them and draw attention to you and away from the liturgy and God.**
2. Receive communion reverently
3. Receive the sacred vessel for distribution
4. Go to your place to distribute communion, never leave the Sanctuary before the priest.
5. Hold the host or chalice before the communicant at a level that makes eye contact between the communicant and extraordinary minister of Holy Communion, if possible.
6. Offers the Body of Christ to the communicant in the hand or on the tongue, as the communicant indicates.
7. Says only, "The Body of Christ" if offering the host, or only "The Blood of Christ" if offering the chalice.
8. Wipes the rim of the chalice with a purificator after each communicant and turns the chalice slightly for the next communicant.
9. ALWAYS bless the children under communion age that come in the line for communion. Place your hand on or over their head and say God bless you.

After communion:

1. Returns the ciborium/chalice to the altar for purification by the priest/deacon. Do not put the purificator inside the cup. Do not wipe the interior of the cup. Just hand the cup and the purificator with the remaining Sacred Blood to the priest or deacon. Do not just place the sacred vessels on the altar, wait until the priest or deacon receives them from you and places them on the corporal. Stand to a side so as not to get in the way of other ministers, looking towards the Blessed Sacrament. When the Blessed Sacrament is put in the tabernacle all extraordinary ministers bow towards the tabernacle as the one placing the Blessed Sacrament in the tabernacle genuflects or bows and return immediately to their seats.

10. The priest or deacon will immediately combine the Body of Christ into one ciborium (if possible) and hand it to you (if you are the EMOH, designated for that) you will then reverently return the Blessed Sacrament to the tabernacle, close the tabernacle and bow or genuflect. Once you do this you return to your seat. The priest will remain at the Altar, where he will consume the Sacred Blood and then thoroughly purify the Sacred Vessels.

Terms Used

Altar the sacred table in the middle of the sanctuary where the priest offers the bread and wine which become the body and blood of Jesus. When the church was dedicated, the bishop consecrated the altar with special oil. We bow to the Altar, because the Altar is a symbol of Jesus Christ, who is the Priest, the Altar and the Victim.

Chalice the sacred vessel which is used for the consecration of wine which becomes the blood of Christ during Mass.

Ciborium the sacred vessel which is used for the consecration of the bread which becomes the body of Christ during the Mass.

Communion Cups smaller cups that are used to consecrate and distribute the Sacred Blood to the people.

Corporal the square linen cloth which is unfolded on the altar for Mass. The sacred vessels are placed on it for consecration. Only the deacon or the priest place the sacred vessels on the corporal.

Credence Table the table in the sanctuary where the sacred vessels, linens and the Missal are kept during Mass.

Deacon the man who sits next to the presider in the sanctuary. He wears a stole that goes across his chest. At Mass he proclaims the Gospel, reads the intercessions, gives directions to the assembly (ie: “let us offer each other a sign of Christ’s peace”, etc.) and distributes communion. The deacon is an ordained minister.

Purificator the white folded linen that is used when the communion ministers wipe the chalice.

Sanctuary the area of the church where most of the liturgical furnishings are. The sanctuary is elevated so that people may see what is going on.

Sacristy the room next to the church where the vessels and vestments are stored. The priests and deacon also prepare for Mass in the sacristy.

Tabernacle the special container where the Blessed Sacrament is reserved for people who are sick and can’t come to Mass, for those who wish to pray with Jesus after Mass. Extra consecrated hosts are taken from the tabernacle for communion at Mass.