

Revised Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion Duties:

As of June 14th, 2021

The ordinary minister of Holy Communion is the bishop, priest, or deacon. We give thanks for the changes in Vatican II which allow the laity (that's you!) to participate and administer the Eucharist as well! This makes you "extra + ordinary" ministers of this sacrament. (That being said, you are all extraordinary people nonetheless!)

Each host, or even a fragment of a host, contains the Body, Blood, Soul, and Divinity of our Savior Jesus Christ and should be handled and treated as such: with reverence and dignity.

1. Approach the altar when the Lamb of God begins. Wait for all three of you to reach the steps, make a profound bow together, then ascend up to the area in front of the Tabernacle.
2. One EMHC will stand in the middle with Father (he will decide in that moment if he will be on the left or the right depending on which side has more children...yes, now you know my secret 😊)
3. The other two EMHC will stand at the far end of the front pew (this position is to prevent bottlenecking)
4. Once the main congregation has gone through the line, one EMHC will walk to the back to distribute to those who cannot walk up the aisle (the ushers will indicate this)
5. One EMHC will wait until the communion hymn and the piano has completely ended and then distribute to the cantor and the accompanist. (This is because the communion rite starts right when Father receives the host. Please either sit in the front pew or far

stand off to the side. It is distracting to a musician to crowd them while they are leading prayer and worship!)

6. When each EMHC has finished distributing, please approach the altar and pour all your remaining hosts in the handled ciborium and place your empty ciborium on the altar. This is a small action, but it is a reverent one: it is so we aren't just "leaving Jesus on the altar."
7. Return to your pew. No need to bow when exiting the altar area

Please plan on gathering in the sacristy with all the other ministers at exactly 5 minutes before every weekend mass for a prayer and blessing led by Father before we begin the liturgy. This strengthens our spirits and our bodies and reminds us that we all have a part to play as the one body of Christ.

Thank you so much for volunteering your time and skills to make this family operation work and to help bring the sacraments to this parish!! Remember, we are not going back to normal: we want to move forward to BETTER than normal with gratitude and joy for all the blessings God has given us.

Peace,
Father Jacob Rouse