

EXTRAORDINARY MINISTER OF HOLY COMMUNION (EMHC)

Note: an Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion is a confirmed Catholic about 17 years of age or older.

Time Required:

- * 1-2 liturgies per month

Commitment:

- * Two years (minimum)

Training:

- * Training session before beginning ministry
- * Occasional updating sessions
- * Rehearsals for special occasions as needed

By virtue of their Baptism, all Christians are called to minister to the needs of other people, and all have the privilege of being ministered to by the People of God.

Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion have that privilege of ministering to the People of God. You have been called to a most beautiful ministry. Take time to reflect on what you are called to do; it will deeply enrich your own awareness of the mystery of Christ and that of the people you serve.

At Communion, Christ invites us into a personal communion with Him and His people. This is at the heart of liturgy, the moment in which we are fed with the Lord's own Body and Blood and are made one with Christ.

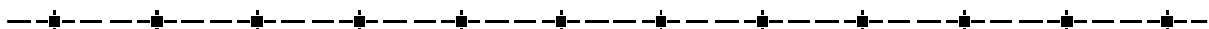
As ministers we can help give significance to this moment by remembering a few key things:

*Do not rush. Allow time for the bow which should accompany the recipient's reponse of "Amen".

*Give the person you are ministering to your full attention. You are greeting a brother or sister in Christ.

*Your reverence for the persons you serve and the Sacrament will show itself in all of your actions.

The central theme of Christ's ministry was the calling of people to be loved and to respond in love. A minister with a warm, welcoming attitude demonstrates that basic attitude of Christ. Thank you for your ministry.



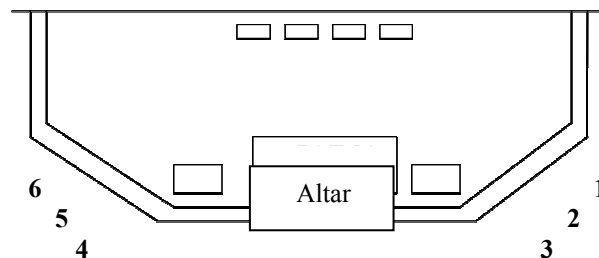
Role before Mass

- Upon arrival, check in at sacristy for a cross to wear.

- Each Ministry schedule will have one person with an asterisk next to their name...that person will be the “lead” to ensure that there are enough EMHC’s. The Lead should arrive 10 minutes prior to Mass to help distribute the crosses.
- Prayer of all lay ministers will occur 5 minutes before Mass
- If, at the conclusion of the prayer, not all the EMHC’s are present, the lead should assist the sacristan and celebrant with finding subs.

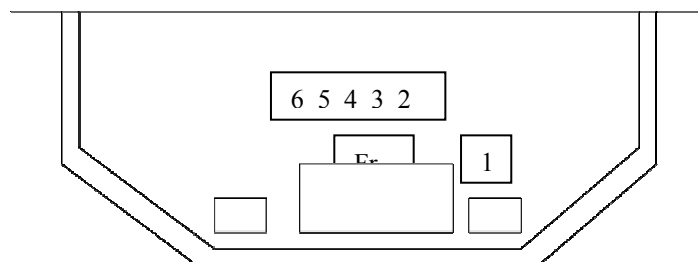
Role during Mass

- EMHC’s will no longer go to the tabernacle. During the “Sign of Peace,” the priest will go to the tabernacle. If the Deacon is present, he will do this.
- Upon the priest’s return to the altar, the “Lamb of God” will begin. EMHC’s are to come forward toward the altar at this time.
- Split up into two groups and line up along the angled steps at the floor facing the altar.



If there is a Deacon, then 3 can go to one side and 2 to the other.

- When the priest has received from the chalice, come forward and line up behind the altar. If you are the “lead”, make sure you walk up the right side and face the priest; the rest should form a line behind the altar as usual.



The priest will distribute Communion to the “lead” EMHC. The “lead” will receive a chalice and assist Father by distributing the Precious Blood to the rest of the EMHC’s and the servers. If the Deacon is present, he will fulfill this role.

- The priest will hand you a vessel of either the Precious Body or the Precious Blood.
- When the Deacon is present, he will distribute the Precious Blood at the station to the priest's right.
- Take your place to distribute to the assembly. Precious Blood ministers, remember to leave some space between yourselves and the minister of the Precious Body. Take your time.....this is never a timed activity.
- When finished, those on the "music side" typically are finished first, step over to assist Father or go to the back if the usher has alerted you to someone who cannot come forward.
- Other EMHC's who are finished should return to the altar with their vessels. CHALICES: Consume the remainder of the Precious Blood and set the chalices on a corporal (this is the white square cloth that is laid out at the bottom right corner of the Altar). Place the Purificator (wiping cloth) NEXT to the chalice. CIBORIA: These can be placed on the corporal in the middle of the Altar.
- Father will purify all vessels.
- Please line up behind the Altar and when all have finished, bow together toward the Altar and return to your places.

Thank you!