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EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS OF HOLY COMMUNION

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PREPARATION BEFORE MASS

Report to the sacristan at least ten (10) minutes before Mass, go to your seat and enter into prayer.

IMPORTANT NOTE: Reverence to the Blessed Sacrament is done by genuflection as you enter and leave the church or as you open and close the Tabernacle. As you cross the Tabernacle area show reverence with a bow.

DURING THE MASS

If serving at the 10:30am Sunday Mass, or another Feast Day where there is a formal entrance procession, join the procession into the church following the Altar Servers. Line up in front of the Altar and when the celebrant is in position bow with all the liturgical ministers and proceed to your seat. Do the same for the recessional, gather in a line in front of the Altar, and with the celebrant is in place, bow and turn to follow the altar servers who will lead you to the vestry for a final bow before the crucifix.

During the Sign of Peace, proceed to the front of the altar (center aisle), bow and at the credence table on the left side of the sanctuary wash your hands in the finger bowl and dry them with the purificator while praying silently *“Lord wash away my iniquities and cleanse me from my sin”*. Sanitize your hands and go to stand to the left side of the altar during the *“Lord have mercy...”* prayer.

After you receive Holy Communion, you may put on your mask. Sanitize your hands again prior to receiving the ciborium from the celebrant.

When you receive the ciborium with the Eucharist from the celebrant wait for him to go to his station and take your station on the other side of the aisle and begin to serve the Eucharist. If there is only one EMHC, serve any handicapped persons at the front first before taking the position in the aisle. If you are serving the choir, as soon as you receive the ciborium, you may proceed to serve any handicapped persons in the front first and then go upstairs to the choir. After serving the choir, check to see if there are any handicapped persons elsewhere in the church and serve them.

When presenting the Eucharist to each communicant, proclaim...**THE BODY OF CHRIST**. Wait for the communicant to answer **AMEN** and then place the consecrated host on the palm of his or her left hand. Some communicants prefer to receive the consecrated host by the tongue.

For children or adults, who indicate they are not receiving communion by crossing arms on the chest, you may quietly offer a prayer such as *“May God bless you”* or *“May the Lord bless you and keep you.”* or *some other prayer*. This prayer is an invocation for a blessing, not a blessing. Blessing is a function of the ordained clergy. The priest or deacon also offers a prayer and does not give a blessing at this point of the celebration.

After distributing Holy Communion, the chalices and the ciboria are handed to the celebrant or placed on the Altar on the corporal for purification by the Priest. Wash your hands again in the finger bowl, drying them on the purificator. You may sanitize again. Then proceed to the front of the Altar, make a profound bow when the priest genuflects in front of the tabernacle and return to your seat.

WE ARE CALLED

Rising from the waters of Baptism, we ...each one of us...are named as witnesses to the whole of Christ's Paschal Mystery: his suffering, dying and rising.

All of us are called to give thanks and praise to God for all he has done to us. All of us are called to live our thanksgiving by doing the work of justice and mercy in our own respective way. Whatever our individual vocation, it is our Baptism that identifies us as one who shares in the Lord's ministry.

BAPTISMAL SPIRITUALITY

Spirituality can be defined as the skillful effort to become present to the Sacred. The Lord Jesus has revealed to us the height and breadth of the Sacred and we are not invited to experience the whole of this reality:

- + the mystery of Christ's dying and rising
- + the Spirit moving us to prayer
- + the enduring presence of Christ in the Body
- + the gift of self, on behalf of the poor, that we share with the Lord

THE BAPTISMAL MINISTRY OF THE TABLE

Yours is a share in the work of the Spirit, who makes us one bread, one body. Yours is a service at the Lord's reconciling table. You minister holy food to holy people in the holiest of all Communions. Yours is the ministry of the One who is broken and poured out for our sakes.

Come to your ministry from your personal prayer, praying that the Lord will heal your brokenness as you break and pour out yourselves to others. Learn to love the Eucharist you minister. Let it heal the hurt your heart is slow to acknowledge. Reverence those whom you serve as you would reverence the Sacrament you minister. When you minister to family and friends, remember that the greatest bond you share is in the Lord. When you minister to strangers, reverence them as you would your closest friend. When you minister to those with whom you are at odds, reverence them as the Lord does with you in your sinfulness. Remember that your holiness is the work of the Lord within you.

Take delight in the communion you share and rejoice in the work the Lord accomplishes in you, for through you the Lord saves His people.