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EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS OF HOLY COMMUNION

(updated October 2022)

PREPARATION BEFORE MASS

Have your schedule of serving days clearly displayed among your household reminders. Please arrange for a substitute in advance if you cannot be there yourself.

NOTE: It is a good idea to always be ready and prepared to serve so that you are not taken by surprise if asked to be a replacement for Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion who is not able to attend at the last minute.

Arrive at the Church at least fifteen (15) minutes before Mass starts. Check in with the Sacristan. At ten (10) minutes prior to Mass join the liturgical team in the Vestry to pray the Server's Prayer. Identify those who will need to be served in their seats and check with the celebrant to confirm the need for an Extraordinary Eucharist Minister of Holy Communion.

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

The Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion positions themselves at the center aisle side of a pew near the front of the church.

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.

If serving at the 10:30am Sunday Mass, or another Feast Day where there is an Offertory Gifts procession, after the prayer of the faithful go to the back of the church to participate in the Offertory Gifts procession.

During the Sign of Peace, proceed to the front of the altar (center aisle), bow to the Altar, and proceed to the credence table on the left side of the sanctuary, wash your hands in the finger bowl and dry them with the purificator. Sanitize your hands and remain at the pews next to the credence table until the celebrant has received the Precious Blood, then move forward to form a line with the Altar Servers to receive Holy Communion.

After you receive Holy Communion, if you wear a mask, sanitize your hands after replacing your mask and prior to receiving the ciborium from the celebrant.

When you receive the ciborium with the Eucharist from the celebrant wait for him to proceed from the Altar and then go to serve the handicapped persons in the front first, the choir and then any handicapped persons in the back or elsewhere in the church. Return to the front by the side aisle and take your position next to the priest to serve the communion line.

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 say "*May God bless you*" while holding the Host over the ciborium and bowing your head towards them. 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. Do not extend your hand over the person or touch them on the head or shoulder. This will assure that no particles of the Host fall on the ground.

After distributing Holy Communion, proceed to the side of the Altar and hand the ciborium to the celebrant or if necessary, place the ciborium on the corporal for purification by the celebrant. Wash your hands again in the finger bowl, drying them on the purificator. You may sanitize again. Wait at the credence table. As the celebrant genuflects after returning the ciborium to the tabernacle make a profound bow. As you leave the sanctuary, make a profound bow to the Altar.

If you are bringing Holy Communion to the home bound in a pix, please wait for the celebrant to hand you the pix and impart the blessing.

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 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.