

# **EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS OF HOLY COMMUNION**

## **LITURGICAL GUIDANCE**

“When all Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion (EMHCs) fulfill their functions with individual integrity in service to the whole, the mystery of the Eucharist is revealed more clearly.”

“Your love for Christ draws you to the Eucharist. Your love for the Church draws you to liturgical service. As an Extraordinary Minister, you are integral to the sacramental sharing that is the highlight of the Mass.”

### **PRIOR TO MASS**

- **Arrive at least 15-20 minutes early** for prayer, reflection, signing in, greeting parishioners.
- Sign in sheets will reflect your desire to give Host (H) or Chalice (C). Sign on appropriate line.
- Lead EMHCs need to check the Credence Table to ensure it is prepared properly.
- Lead EMHCs also need to check gift table to ensure large host is placed in gold plate.
- Priest will lead EMHCs and lectors in prayer prior to procession.

### **TRAY/CHALICES**

- EMHCs will no longer take tray with chalices to altar. Altar servers will take chalices and place them for the priest. Either the Priest or Deacon will pour wine.

### **BEFORE COMMUNION**

- **As we begin “Rite of Peace**, proceed to small table along railing to purify hands, if necessary. Pick up Purificator if you signed for Chalice. Line up in order signed in. Line up in order signed in, **next to railing**.
- EMHC retrieving Ciborium should proceed during the **Our Father** at **“For Thine is the Kingdom”** to purify hands, if necessary, and pick up key, if applicable.
- Close Tabernacle Door after retrieving Ciborium.
- Carry Ciborium with both hands, raised high for reverence.
- Remaining EMHCs should stand **along railing** and wait reverently until EMHC with Ciborium passes. Bow reverently as Ciborium passes. Line up in order you signed up.
- EMHC with Ciborium places it on the Corporal or hands it to priest. He or she goes back and waits with other EMHCs – will be first in line.
- When priest takes Chalice to consume precious Blood, EMHCs proceed to sanctuary and take their place under Crucifix.
- **All consecrated hosts and wine are to be on the Corporal not on altar cloth.**
- EMHCs should wait until priest descends altar, then follow to distribute Body & Blood.
- Be sure to offer both Body and Blood of Christ to handicapped parishioners.
- If you see someone walk away with Precious Body, EMHC with Chalice should ask them to consume the Precious Body immediately.
- If parishioner comes forward with arms crossed, simply raise hand and say Christ’s love and peace be with you. Clergy invoke blessings.

## AFTER COMMUNION:

- If you have Precious Blood remaining, consume it **at the foot of the altar, facing the altar**. If unable to consume, reverently ask another EMHC to consume.
- Place chalices and purificators on Credence Table #2. Cover chalices with corporal.
- Place plates on corporal on the altar.
- EMHCs return to seats for prayer and reflection.
- Priest will place hosts in Ciborium for EMHC to return to Tabernacle. Again, hold Ciborium with both hands and raise high for reverence.
- EMHC with Ciborium should note how many **consecrated hosts are in Ciborium and mark sheet appropriately**. This data is used for many purposes.

## AFTER MASS

- Clear the Credence Table and take everything to the Sacristy.
- Priest will purify chalices after Mass. Plates are already purified.
- Two EMHCs remain to lightly cleanse chalices after Priest purifies.
- If you attend the 7:00, 8:30, or 10:00 A.M. Masses, fill the plate and decanter with the correct number of hosts and wine. Be sure to place large host for priest on top of the plate. Set the Credence Table—picture on wall in sacristy.
- **Record approx # of hosts in Ciborium & # on gold plate on EMHC sign in sheet.**

## TABERNACLE KEY

- Tabernacle key is always in Priests' Sacristy, unless it is being used
- Key is left by the Tabernacle following 8:30 Mass until the end of the Noon Mass for access to returning Homebound Ministers.
- Saturday Mass and Noon Mass, place key back in Priests' Sacristy.

## DROPPED CONSECRATED HOSTS OR SPILLED CONSECRATED WINE

- If a consecrated host is not “seriously soiled” it should be picked up and reverently consumed. If it is too soiled, place consecrated host in cup of water, mark it as such, and leave in Sacristy. The host must be completely dissolved before it is poured into ground.
- If consecrated wine is spilled, absorb it with your purificator. Obtain another purificator from sacristy. Soiled purificator must be soaked in water; and water poured in ground. Thoroughly clean area where spill occurred.

If we truly are reverent, if we truly love our Lord and Savior in His Precious Body and Precious Blood, we will allow that love to shine in and through us. If that love shines in us, then I believe everything we do will be for the Honor and Glory of God.

May all that we hold, may all that we touch, may all that we are, appreciate the Miracle of Christ in His Precious Body and Precious Blood.

I thank God for each and every one of you. I pray God's blessings on you and your families.

