

Eucharistic Minister Training Contents

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1. Duties of Extraordinary Ministers of Communion

Before Mass, Extraordinary Ministers of Communion should stop in the sacristy before Mass to check in. If you are a scheduled minister, place a check mark next to your name on the schedule posted on the bulletin board. If you are a substitute, write your initials next to the name of the minister for whom you are substituting. It is recommended that your place in the pews be as close to the aisle as possible for ease of leaving and returning to your place in the pews.

At Communion time, Extraordinary Ministers should come forward immediately following the Sign of Peace and stand along the edge of the carpet nearest to the presider's chair to receive Communion. After receiving Communion, proceed one by one to the south side of the main altar (nearest the Sacramentary Table), where you will be handed a cup or a ciborium and assigned to a Communion station. After receiving a vessel, you will stand on either the north or south side of the altar until all of the ministers have received Communion. When the celebrant turns to go down to the landing to distribute Communion, all Extraordinary Ministers of Communion will move directly to their assigned stations.

2. Mechanics of Distributing Communion

Normally, four Extraordinary Ministers will distribute the Precious Blood and at least one will distribute the Body of Christ.

For distributing the Body of Christ, the ministers stand at their appointed station holding the ciborium as close to their body as possible (to reduce the possibility of dropped hosts. Raise the host above the ciborium, and, while making eye contact with the Communicant, say the words: **“The Body of Christ.”** No changes of these words are appropriate.

For distributing the precious Blood, the minister will hold the cup by its stem in one hand and the purificator in the other. Make eye contact with

the Communicant and while slightly elevating the cup, say the words: **“the Blood of Christ.”** No changes of these words are appropriate.

Correct: The Body of Christ.
The Blood of Christ.

Incorrect: This is the Body of Christ.
This is the Blood of Christ.
(Name), The Body (or Blood) of Christ.

If you or the Communicant drop a host or spill the Precious Blood, stop immediately and take the following steps:

Dropped Host--Pick up the host and enclose it in the hand used to hold the ciborium. Continue distributing Communion until finished. Depending on the condition of the host, and whether it has contacted the mouth of the Communicant, the host may be returned to the ciborium, consumed by the priest or deacon, or placed in the sacrum.

Spilled Precious Blood--Open the purificator and place it over the spill. Return to the sacristy immediately and get another purificator from the vesting table. When finished distributing the Precious Blood, Clean the spill up with both purificators. Return as soon as possible with a damp cloth and wipe the area clean.

Other Points to Remember

Intinction -- Do not allow communicants to dip the host into the Precious Blood.

Consumption of the host -- the host should be consumed at or near the Communion station. Communicants should not walk away holding the host in their hands.

When distribution of Communion is completed -- all ciboria will be returned to the main altar. All cups will be brought to the credence table.

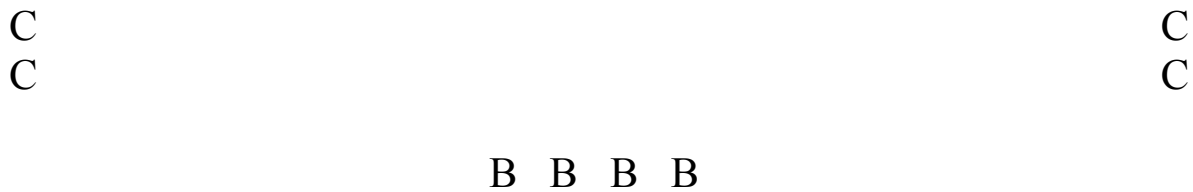
Once the celebrant and Deacon have purified the Communion vessels, the Extraordinary Ministers will return them to the sacristy as described below.

3. Communion Stations

There will be 8 communion stations at all weekend Masses. The Body of Christ will be distributed from 4 stations at the center of the sanctuary landing. The Precious Blood will be distributed by 2 ministers in front of the double doors on the St. Joseph side of the church and 2 ministers in front of the double doors on the Blessed Mother's side of the church.

When Mass is celebrated with a choir, typically at 8:30 and 10:30, an additional minister will be needed to take Communion to the choir.

Extraordinary Ministers who are in attendance at Mass should count the number of ministers who come forward, and come forward if we are short-handed. Remember, we need a total of **8 without a choir** and **9 if the choir is present**. This includes priest(s) and deacon(s). Positioning of ministers is shown below:



4. After Communion

Purification Procedure--Based on a directive from Rome, the purification of Communion vessels must now be performed by the Ordinary Ministers of Communion (Priests or Deacons). When distribution of Communion has been completed, the Deacon and Extraordinary Ministers of the Cup will return to the credence table. The Extraordinary Ministers will consume any remaining Precious Blood.

One Extraordinary Minister will be designated to remain at the credence table while the Deacon purifies the cups. After the purification, the cups will be placed on the tray and returned to the sacristy, where the Extraordinary Ministers will wash and dry the cups with a purificator.

One Extraordinary Minister will remain at the altar while the priest purifies the Ciboria. Once the priest has completed the purification, the Extraordinary Minister will return the ciboria to the sacristy where they will be washed and dried.

If other Masses are to be celebrated, the cups will be left on the counter next to the sacrarium. The Ciboria and the Chalice will be placed on the Corporal on the vesting table.

After the 12:30 Sunday Mass, or if no other masses are to be celebrated, all Communion vessels should be returned to the sacristy vault.

All soiled purificators should be placed in the laundry hamper.

After completing these steps, the Extraordinary Ministers will leave the sacristy and return to their places in the pews.