

ST. THOMAS MORE
INSTRUCTIONS FOR
EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS OF HOLY COMMUNION
8/25/08

ADVANCE PREPARATION FOR EXTRAORDINARY MINISTRY

Distributing the Body and Blood of the Lord Jesus Christ is an extraordinary ministry for lay Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion, delegated to them when there are not available the number of ordained ministers, priests and deacons sufficient for the distribution of Holy Communion. Extraordinary Ministers have the awesome privilege and responsibility to communicate God's own Son, Jesus Christ, to the Assembly of Christians. Accordingly, Extraordinary Ministers must prepare themselves to minister effectively. Please allow your ministry to bring you and your life more into conformity with the model offered to us by Jesus Christ.

CHECK-IN BEFORE EXTRAORDINARY MINISTRY AT MASSES:

Ten minutes before Mass is to begin. This check-in is to insure that we have enough Extraordinary Ministers for every Mass, and to give you the quiet time necessary to prepare yourselves, and also to allow for any special instructions. If you are unable to get to the Mass at which you have committed yourself to serve, then please find your replacement from among the parish's Extraordinary Ministers listed on the website and sent via email at the beginning of each university term.

IMMEDIATE PREPARATION FOR EXTRAORDINARY MINISTRY:

After the Priest has received Communion under both species, the Extraordinary Ministers approach the sanctuary area. They line up at side by the tabernacle.

EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS' COMMUNION RECEPTION:

All Extraordinary Ministers receive Communion ONLY from the Priest or Deacon. All receive their vessels for the further distribution of Communion from the Priest or Deacon and proceed to their stations.

COMMUNION DISTRIBUTION:

Distribute Holy Communion, holding the host or the chalice up and saying "The Body (or Blood) of Christ", while meeting the eyes of each communicant, always meaning what you are saying. Wait for the communicant to respond, "Amen", and then administer with the host (or chalice) to the person. Let the person hand the chalice back to you, wipe the rim where the person drank, and then turn the chalice a quarter turn before offering it to the next person. There is no need to rush.

If the minister runs out of Precious Blood, then proceed to the side of the sanctuary (Tabernacle side) and wait to hand the cup back to the priest. Same thing applies to the minister who finishes distributing at the station and has Precious Blood remaining.

If the Precious Blood is spilled, use your purificator to cover it and soak it up. Be careful to guard against anyone stepping there. Then get a new purificator to continue distributing the remaining Precious Blood, if any. After Mass, advise the Priest or Deacon of the spilled Precious Blood, so that it may be attended to. If you or a communicant should drop the Blessed Sacrament, the minister should pick it up and consume it.

REPOSITION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT AND CONSUMING PRECIOUS BLOOD:

The ministers of the Blessed Sacrament take their ciboria to the Priest or Deacon at the side of the sanctuary for his consolidation of all the hosts that remain into the main ciborium and his reposition of the Blessed Sacrament into the tabernacle. The ciboria will be purified at the altar by the Priest or Deacon. The ministers of the Precious Blood take their cups to the side of the sanctuary. Fr. Marcin or the deacon will come to you to collect the chalice and purificator. If the amount of Precious Blood appears to be excessive for you to consume with comfort and safety, then offer the excess to the other ministers or to the priest.

PURIFICATION OF THE VESSELS:

After consuming the Precious Blood, pray

“Lord, may I receive these gifts in purity of heart. May they bring me healing and strength, now and forever.”

After Mass, the sacred vessels, including the flagon (flask or pitcher), will be brought into the sacristy and washed with soap and water and dried, all under the care of the Mass Coordinator, by the Extraordinary Ministers. The sink is never to be used for disposing of the remaining Precious Blood nor any particles of the Blessed Sacrament. Both are always to be consumed by an Extraordinary Minister.

The tabernacle must be locked between Masses; and the tabernacle key must be secured in the sacristy.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROUS AND FAITHFUL SERVICE DISTRUBUTING HOLY COMMUNION