

EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS OF HOLY COMMUNION

Ss. Francis and Clare

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Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion assist with the smooth and reverent giving of communion during Mass when a sufficient number of ordinary ministers (priests, deacons) are not available.

QUALIFICATION OF AN EXTRAORDINARY MINISTER OF HOLY COMMUNION

An Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion is a person who:

1. Is a registered member of the parish;
2. is a Catholic in good sacramental standing in the Church (has received confirmation and valid marriage)
3. is a Catholic mature in faith and of excellent character, who shows reverence and love for the Eucharist;
4. is growing spiritually through daily prayer and liturgical prayer, especially the Sunday Eucharist, and who accepts the responsibility of ministry in serving the needs of others;
5. understands that the Mass is a communal prayer and that the distribution of communion is a liturgical function requiring a sense of dignity and an attitude of prayer;
5. is sensitive to the ways that Christ is present in the Mass: within the assembly, through the proclaiming of the Word, in the Eucharist;
7. has a basic understanding of the theology of Eucharist in line with the present rites.
8. expresses a sense of dignity by appropriate Sunday dress, by handling all liturgical vessels with respect, by alert posture, by graceful and correctly timed movement;
9. is person-oriented and has an ability to be attentive to the person being ministered to;
10. is comfortable handling any accidents that might occur so that the communicant involved in such an incident is at ease with the situation and not overly embarrassed;
11. is able to identify the specific objects used at Mass with the names that are given in the parish (e.g. chalice, corporal, purificator ...);
12. has physically demonstrated the actual movements a communion minister is expected to make during the Mass;
14. is faithful in keeping scheduled appointments arriving 20 minutes prior to Mass and obtaining dependable replacements when necessary; (if because of circumstances of health, age, or work schedule a person is unable to be present on a regularly scheduled basis, that person should not be considered a candidate for Eucharistic ministry);

Proper Attire

1. Should dress in a way that expresses the dignity and importance of what they are called to do: distributing the Body and Blood of Christ
2. Nothing a minister does or wears should distract from the dignity of the Mass
3. Avoid excessively casual or distracting clothing

Examples of excessively casual or distracting clothing: jeans, shorts, tee shirts, tennis shoes, flip flops, shirts worn open, tank tops, low-rider slacks, low cut/revealing necklines, tight fitting skirts or slacks, tight fitting blouses or sweaters, halter tops, bare midriff, short skirts, sleeves, strapless or spaghetti straps