

Extraordinary Ministers of Communion

*"For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes."
1 Cor 11:26*

Mission Statement

Extraordinary Ministers of Communion are members of the Assembly who have been called, formed and commissioned to serve the faith community at the Rite of Communion during the Eucharistic Celebration. They assist and facilitate the faithful in their encounter and communion with the Risen Lord before they are sent forth on mission.

Requirements and Personal Qualities

1. Have a sense of call and a desire to serve the Eucharistic Assembly with joy and gladness as an Extraordinary Minister of Communion.
2. Be fully initiated into the Catholic Faith and a regular participant in OLPH Parish life.
3. Have an interest in building community through a spirit of hospitality and an example of Christian living.
4. Be willing to attend formation sessions for study and spiritual reflection.
5. Serve with sincere devotion, care and reverence.
6. Dress in a way befitting this sacred ministry.

Organization and Schedule

1. One or two Eucharistic Ministry coordinators will look after inviting parishioners into this ministry, training workshops and managing details.
2. We will only be Ministers of the Body of Christ at this time.
3. There will not be a prepared printed schedule for Eucharistic Ministers. Eucharistic Ministers will sign up to serve by clicking on *Volunteers at Mass* on the brown bar on our parish website (olph.ca) which will open up SignUpGenius or, if computer access is unavailable, by calling the church office at 780-467-5470 or Suzanne, the coordinator, at 780-600-0173 to be signed up.
4. When we decide which mass we will be attending, we will check *Volunteers at Mass* on our parish website (olph.ca) to see if there is a need for a Eucharistic Minister and then sign up.
5. If we have signed up to serve at a mass and then find we cannot attend, we will go back into SignUpGenius to remove our name or let our church office (780-467-5470) or coordinator (Suzanne, 780-600-0173) know so that another minister might fill the need.

Protocol

1. Communion ministers come forward as singing of the 'Lamb of God' begins and the door to the Tabernacle has been closed.
2. Ministers of the Body of Christ will move to stand at one of our 8 stations (station #1 is at the aisle by the piano, station #2 and #3 are on either side of the aisle with the pillar, #4 and #5 are at the center aisle, #6 and #7 are on either side of the aisle with the pillar and then station #8). We will not stand by station #1 or #8 unless all other stations are filled. It will be given that we will then serve from the station where we are standing. Occasionally, our priest may indicate that he will distribute communion from the number where we are standing, in which case, we will then move to a station that is not filled.
3. A ciborium of low gluten hosts will be placed on the small table beside station #5. If a parishioner, at any station, requests a low gluten host, the minister will place their current ciborium on the table, while the low gluten one is used to offer communion to the parishioner, with the other hand than was used with the regular hosts to reduce the possibility of gluten on our hands, before resuming with the original ciborium.
4. The Priest will consume both species, then offer communion to other Clergy, the Deacon if present, the Adult Servers, and any Altar Servers that may be present. The Adult Servers will then sanitize their hands

after receiving communion, before taking a ciborium to distribute the blessed sacrament. Adult Servers will serve the Body of Christ to the Eucharistic Ministers, giving time for each Eucharistic Minister to then sanitize their hands after receiving communion before giving them a ciborium.

5. Hold the vessel up about shoulder height until ready to serve. Elevate vessels whenever there are consecrated contents in the vessel except while you are serving.
6. When the Priest and Adult Server are in place, we turn to begin.
7. Hold the host up in front of the recipient. Be personable and make eye contact. Clearly proclaim the faith statement “The Body of Christ”. Place the Body of Christ in the hand after the response “Amen”. Given the reverence for the Real Presence of Christ in the Eucharist, it is important that the person consumes immediately; if they do not, please instruct them to do so.
8. Please accept how a person receives communion. In the hand or on the tongue are the acceptable ways to receive. If we may possibly have touched the tongue of a parishioner, we will place our ciborium on the table beside where there is sanitizer and sanitize our hands before continuing to serve communion.
9. If a parishioner has a pix in which to place the Eucharist to minister to someone in need outside of mass, the minister at mass places the host in the pix and then holds up another host, proclaiming “The Body of Christ” to the parishioner. Parishioners are guided to speak with one of our priests with any questions about a pix.
10. If our ciborium is empty, signal the Director if there is one (that is the Adult Server who stands in the sanctuary), as they may be able to get more hosts. If no Director is present, simply turn and face the Altar indicating that you are no longer able to serve.
11. If a consecrated host is dropped, calmly pick it up, and consume it before offering another to the parishioner.
12. Children or adults not receiving the Eucharist may request God’s blessing by placing their hand over their chest. We will be personable and ensure eye contact as we proclaim a brief prayer. We are the instrument of God’s blessing so it is recommended for us to say “May Almighty God bless you” as we make the sign of the cross with our thumb in front of the parishioner’s face. For the time being, there will be no contact while blessing.
13. Ministers who have distributed to everyone in their queue, will turn and attend to the Director. We may be directed to stations with longer queues. If there is no Director, look around to see if another section could use your help. If so, stand in a position that indicates you are also distributing to that line, being mindful of the flow of parishioners back to their seats.
14. If asked, accompany the usher, who leads this part, to serve parishioners with challenges who do not come forward or the AV technician(s). When done, return to the altar steps by the quickest route, no need to return to exact station.
15. The music ministry receives from station #1, or #2 if there is not a minister at #1. The music ministers walk to station #1 rather than the minister walking towards the piano.
16. When ministers finish serving, we will turn toward the sanctuary, to stand near the bottom step. Vessels will be picked up by the adult servers.
17. After distributing communion, we wash at one of the small tables near the base of the altar in the ablution (water) bowl to cleanse our fingers of any particles of the Eucharist and return to our pew.

PRAYER FOR COMMUNION MINISTERS

Before your all holy mystery, O God, I am a sinful and unworthy servant. Through the power of your grace, make me a worthy and competent Minister at the service of your Holy People. May I serve you and your People with faith and reverence. Inspire my hope of sharing one day forever in the banquet of the Lord’s reign in heaven. Amen.

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