

Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion

1. The Presider may be assisted in the distribution of Communion by other priests who happen to be present. If such priests are not present and there is a very large number of communicants, the priest may call upon extraordinary ministers to assist him, i.e., duly instituted acolytes or even other faithful who have been deputed for this purpose. In case of necessity, the priest may depute suitable faithful for this single occasion (GIRM, cf. no.162).

Before Mass

2. A period of silence is encouraged. Presider and ministers should arrive at least 15 minutes before Mass to enter into the spirit of the celebration (GIRM, cf. no.45).
3. The 15 minutes in silence before Mass are for personal recollection and preparation; no singing; no instruments; no rosary; no Angelus; no pre-greetings, instructions or announcements (Diocesan Norm).
4. Before Mass begins, the following prayer is said by priests, ministers and altar servers in a proper place:

**God our Father,
 You have called us
 to stand next to Your altar and serve You.
 Pour forth into our hearts the grace of the Holy Spirit.
 that our every word and gesture
 may draw Your People deeper
 into the saving Mysteries of Your Beloved Son.
 Through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

Presider: Mary, Mother of the Church,

Ministers: pray for us.

P: St. Joseph, M: pray for us.

P: St. (Patron of parish), M: pray for us.

Communion

5. Extraordinary Eucharistic Ministers of the Holy Communion proceed to the sanctuary **after the presider has consumed the Precious Blood**. There should be NO movement while the presider is taking communion (Bishop's letter February 13, 2005).
6. Extraordinary Eucharistic Ministers of the Holy Communion do not wash or sanitize their hands in the sanctuary (Diocesan Norms).
7. If a host or any particle should fall, it is to be picked up reverently. If any of the Precious Blood is spilled, the area where the spill occurred should be washed with water, and this water should then be poured into the sacrarium in the sacristy (GIRM, no. 280).
8. At the end of Communion, **if a ciborium contains hosts it is place on the corporal on the altar. Chalices and empty ciboria are taken to the credence table** for purification by deacon or acolyte or if needed by Eucharistic Ministers. After words Eucharistic Ministers return immediately to their pews (Celebration of Mass: Norms for Priests, Deacons, Acolytes).