

Instructions for Extraordinary Ministers of the Eucharist at St. Raymond's

GENERAL

- 1) Set a good example of faith by choosing your language carefully. We believe that the bread and wine are changed into the Body and Blood of Christ – and what we say should reflect that.

Acceptable Language: “the Body of Christ,” “the Precious Blood,” “the hosts,” “distributing from the chalice,” “consecrated bread,” “consecrated wine,” etc

Language to be Avoided: “bread,” “wine,” “giving wine,” “distributing the bread,” “distributing the wine” etc

- 2) It may occasionally happen that there are visiting priests or deacons. In that case, they always serve as the “ordinary” ministers of the Eucharist, and the appropriate number of EME’s should politely step aside to allow them to exercise the ordained ministry that is properly theirs.
- 3) It is very important to dress modestly and in a dignified manner any time you are scheduled to serve as an EME.

BEFORE MASS:

- 1) Be sure to show up when you are scheduled, or to arrange for a substitute.
- 2) Arrive in a timely manner (at least 5 or 10 minutes early) so that the ushers know you are here.
- 3) Sign in on the sheet in the gathering, indicating the time of arrival.
- 4) Take your cross, and apply hand sanitizer (or wash your hands).
- 5) Sit in a place that allows you easy access to the aisle at the proper time.

AT COMMUNION TIME:

- 1) During the Lamb of God approach the sanctuary – but wait with the other EME’s at the foot of the steps¹.
- 2) Once the priest receives the Body of Christ, enter the sanctuary, lining up together with the servers and the other EME’s.
- 3) Stand reverently with your hands folded, focusing on the sacred action at the altar.
- 4) Receive communion reverently.
- 5) Carefully receive the ciborium or the chalice/purificator from Father. If he gives you a chalice, distribute the Precious Blood to those around you who have not yet received.

¹ “These ministers should not approach the altar before the Priest has received Communion” (*General Instruction on the Roman Missal*, n. 162).

- 6) Once Father goes out to distribute to the people, move with him and take your places. If distributing the Body of Christ, stand next to Father (wait to see which side he takes and take the other).
- 7) ***If distributing the Precious Blood, stand as far to the side as possible*** – it is easy to get “traffic jams” with the line, so allow as much space between yourself and the center aisle as you can.
- 8) While distributing, be very careful to avoid letting any hosts (or particles of hosts) or drops of the Precious Blood fall to the ground. If it happens with the host, be sure to pick it up as soon as possible (it should be consumed when you return to the altar). If the Precious Blood is spilt, place a purificator over that spot so that no one will step on it and so that it can be cleaned properly after Mass.
- 9) If you ever notice someone taking the Eucharist away without consuming it, approach him and remind him to consume the host (or give it back).
- 10) If distributing the Precious Blood and someone tries to self-intinct (*i.e.*, dip his host into the chalice), do not allow him – instruct him to consume the host first. Direct him to Father after Mass if he has any complaints.
- 11) If your chalice is empty or near empty, avoid any awkwardness by asking the next person to finish the contents (or just return to the altar immediately).
- 12) If you run out of hosts, either let Father finish distributing (if only a few are left) or allow him to give you more hosts.
- 13) Once your Communion line finishes, immediately look to see if there are any disabled members of the congregation who need the Body and Blood brought to them.

AFTER DISTRIBUTION

- 1) Return reverently to the altar.
- 2) If you have a ciborium, hand it to Father at the altar, or place it onto the corporal (the square cloth in the center)
- 3) If you have a chalice, place it on or near the corporal at the center of the altar². Father will consume the rest, unless a great deal remains, in which case he may ask for your assistance.
- 4) Place your purificator on the corporal (in the center of the altar), or drape it over your chalice. ***Please do not place a used purificator on the bare altar cloth.***
- 5) (If you wish) Go to the credence table and dip whatever fingers you have used into the ablution bowl, wiping them dry on one of the hand towels next to it.
- 6) Stand together with the other EMEs while Father reposes the Blessed Sacrament.
- 7) Leave the sanctuary together with the other EMEs and return to your place.

² “When the distribution of Communion is over, the Priest himself immediately and completely consumes at the altar any consecrated wine that happens to remain; as for any consecrated hosts that are left, he either consumes them at the altar or carries them to the place designated for the reservation of the Eucharist” (*General Instruction on the Roman Missal*, n. 163).