

Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion

Do's and Don'ts

Do keep in mind that you are a minister of the church.

Do arrive at least fifteen minutes before the start of mass. The sacristan needs to know if you are here so they can make adjustments should you be absent from your scheduled date as a Eucharist minister.

Do check in with the sacristan when you arrive and or check your name off when you arrive.

Do call the church if you are unable to be there on the day you are scheduled to be a Eucharist minister.

Do dress appropriately as we treat the body and blood of Christ with the utmost respect.

Do arrive at a church as pleasant, prayerful and ready to serve.

Do be friendly in your approach to each communicant.

Do present the Eucharist at eye level with the communicant.

Do respect each communicant's wish on how they receive the Eucharist by the hand or by the tongue.

Do allow the communicant time to respond with "amen" after you intone the "Body of Christ or "Blood of Christ".

Do stand far enough away from other Eucharistic ministers or the presider to avoid any congestion.

Do remain calm if any mishap occurs (e.g. dropping a host or spilling the wine)

Do check around to see if someone is unable to walk in the communion line. You can either bring that person communion or ask the presider to.

Do present the "Blood of Christ" in such a way that the communicant can easily take the cup into their hands.

Do stay focused when repeatedly intoning the “Body of Christ” or Blood of Christ”. This is repetitive, but this is also sacred.

Don'ts:

Don't arrive after the start of mass. We are depending on you.

Don't editorialize or use extra word when intoning the “Body of Christ” or “Blood of Christ”.

Don't show any facial or body language expressions that invoke disappointment if the communicant passes you. Some communicants still prefer receiving communion for the priest.

Don't engage in any negative conversations before mass. There may be someone entering a Catholic church for the first time. We would like them to have a good first impression.

Don't forget that you are a minister of the church.

Don't panic if you run out of hosts or consecrated wine.

Don't panic if you drop a consecrated host or spill consecrated wine.

Don't shove the host in someone's hand or mouth. This is sacred and a sacred moment for the communicant.

Don't give a communicant a dirty look, even if they are not well dressed (e.g short shorts or holes in their t-shirts or jeans. The priest can address this individual.)

Don't be afraid to make mistakes. We all make mistakes. And we can all learn from them.!!!

End of the Day: Know that your ministry is a gift that you are offering to the church. Never be afraid to mistakes. We can all learn from them. May God Bless you in your ministry!

Do's and Don'ts Ministry of Homebound

Do inform the parishioner you are visiting that you will be there at such and such a time. Never come unannounced even if you are coming on a weekly basis. The person may be for example at a doctor's appointment which means you have to reschedule your normal time that you meet with this homebound person. If they are in assisted living or a nursing home be sure to call to make sure that they are there. Sometimes we may arrive at a nursing home to find out the person is in the hospital or that they are no longer there.

Do bring a bulletin.

Do share with the homebound person what is going on in the parishes.

Do ask the homebound person how they are doing. Do so kindly and gently, putting them at ease.

Do invite family and friends who are present to join in prayer.

Do allow a moment of silent reflection.

Do be relaxed. If you are nervous and appear uneasy they may become nervous and uneasy.

Do follow the ritual. Remember why you are here. Begin formally with the sign of the cross on yourself, and if the person you are visiting is unable to do so, make the sign of the cross on his or her forehead.

Do offer a cup of water following the reception of communion, especially if the person you are visiting exhibits difficulties swallowing the host. If necessary a piece of the host may be broken off to make receiving the Eucharist easier.

Do thank the person you are visiting for this experience of hospitality and prayer in his or her home.

Don't visit a sick person if you yourself are sick.

Don't compete with a television or radio operating in the same room. Ask politely if these can be turned off during the communion service. Be sure your cell phone is in silent mode.

Don't stay too long. Yes, it is nice to get to know the person you are visiting. However, remember that this is a parish ministry.

Don't take on the role of counselor or confidant. Your role as a Eucharistic minister need not include either of these. Refer the person to the parish staff if counseling is sought. Refer the person to the priest if confession is sought.

Don't promise to return or to pray during the week for the sick person if you think you will not be able to keep your promise.

Don't dispose the remaining Eucharist hosts in the garbage. Even if a person who is not cognizant enough to receive the host spits it out, wrap the host in a cloth, bring it back to the parish dissolve the remainder of the host in water and drain it down the church saccharum.

Don't be afraid to make mistakes. Everyone does. Try to learn from yours!

Now for those who are already Eucharistic ministers to the homebound, let us now take the time to share our experiences of Homebound ministry? How has this been going for you?

At the sign of peace make your way to the Altar. The priest will distribute the host to all. The priest will then give the cup/purificator to Host #1 and Host #2. Host#1 and Host#2 will drink and give (cup & purificator) to Cup#3 and Cup #4. The priest will give the cup/purificator to Cup #1 and Cup#2. The priest will give the cup/purificator to Cup#5 and Cup#6. After you receive your Cup; take a sip and please go to your spot on the floor. Lastly, the priest will give the host to Host#1 and Host#2 and they will go to their places on the floor. If you run out of blood in your cup; return your empty cup to the credence table and return to your pew (if you are on the right side go behind the Altar). On the Ministry Schedule, **Host#1** and **Host#2** will be in bold red.

