

Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion Training

2026



What is our purpose?

- Live our faith by following Christ as disciples
- Proclaim the gospel, especially in actions
- Spread the presence of Christ
- Love and honor the Lord Jesus

What do we believe about the Holy Eucharist?

- Bread and wine, through the power of the Holy Spirit, truly become the Body and Blood, Soul and Divinity of Jesus Christ.
- *Sacrosanctum Concilium* 47. At the LAST SUPPER, on the night when He was BETRAYED, our SAVIOR INSTITUTED the eucharistic SACRIFICE of His BODY AND BLOOD. He did this in order to PERPETUATE the sacrifice of the CROSS throughout the CENTURIES until He should COME AGAIN, and so to entrust to His BELOVED SPOUSE, the Church, a MEMORIAL of His death and resurrection: a SACRAMENT OF LOVE, a sign of UNITY, a bond of CHARITY, a PASCHAL BANQUET in which CHRIST IS EATEN, the mind is FILLED WITH GRACE, and a PLEDGE OF FUTURE GLORY is given to us.

What's your job?

Ordinary ministers: ordained - priority

EMHC's are nominated by their pastor and appointed by the Bishop for a term of three years for:

- Hospitality
- Distribution of Holy Communion at Mass
- Holy Communion to the homebound or hospitalized

And maybe

- Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, with the pastor's permission
- Blessing of Throats
- Distribution of Ashes

Prerequisites

- In the Diocese of Belleville, EMHC's must be fully initiated Catholics (baptism, Holy Communion, Confirmation)
- Ordinarily EMHC's function in the parish where they're registered.

The Ministry at Mass

- Preparation
 - Formation: spiritual and practical
 - Proper Disposition: reverence
 - Appropriate dress and clean hands
 - Approaching the Altar: *after the priest receives*
 - Receive Holy Communion
 - Receive the paten or chalice (and purificator)
- Distribution of Holy Communion at Mass
 - *The body of Christ* or *The blood of Christ. Amen.*
 - No other words (names)
 - Wipe the chalice after each person (inside & out)
- Consuming what remains vs. Purifying the vessels
- Extraordinary situations
 - Dropped Hosts: pick it up immediately.
 - The communicant may wish to receive it.
 - Hold to the side and consume it afterwards.
 - Hold to the side and give to priest.
 - Spilled Precious Blood
 - Wipe up with purificator immediately
 - Discontinue distribution (no purificator)
 - Crossed arms
 - May trace the cross on the forehead
 - May say "God bless you" or something else appropriate

- May smile and nod
- In no circumstance should anything be given to a person not receiving: not a host that isn't consecrated, not a cookie, not a piece of candy: nothing.
- Confused or Unsure Communicant
 - Ask if they're Catholic. If so, assist them. If not, see above (Crossed arms)
- Intinction (dipping the host in the chalice)
 - One may never self-communicate
- Low-gluten host or receiving only the Precious Blood
- People in pews with access issues
- No one gives a blessing with the sign of the cross over someone except a priest or deacon

Holy Communion to the Homebound or Hospitalized

Antiphon: O sacred banquet, in which Christ is received: the memory of his passion is renewed, the mind is filled with grace, and the pledge of future glory is given to us.

- Sign of the Cross
- Penitential Act
 - Confiteor (I confess to Almighty God...) or Kyrie (Lord, have mercy...)
- Lord's Prayer
- Behold the Lamb of God... Lord, I am not worthy...
- Holy Communion
 - Prayer: Let us pray O Lord, holy Father, Almighty and Eternal God, with faith we entreat you that the most holy body of our Lord Jesus Christ your Son may benefit our brother/sister who receives it as an everlasting remedy for both body and soul through Christ our Lord.

Viaticum

May he protect you and lead you to eternal life.