

Resurrection Catholic Parish Guidelines for Extraordinary Ministers of Communion

"When the necessity of the Church warrants it...lay persons ... can ... distribute Holy Communion in accord with the prescriptions of law." Canon 230, paragraph . 3

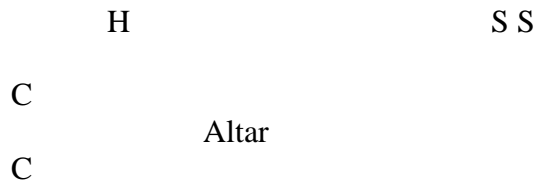
At Resurrection Parish laymen and laywomen assist the Pastor in the Extraordinary Ministry of distributing Holy Communion in three ways:

- I. They assist at Mass with the distribution of both the Precious Body and Blood of Our Lord;
- II. They bring Holy Communion to the sick and homebound;
- III. They lead a Holy Communion Service when there is no Mass on a particular day.

I. Assisting at Mass

1. On Saturday evenings and Sundays (and other days when there are a large number assisting at Mass) three laypersons assist the celebrating priest in the distribution of Holy Communion: One helps distribute the Precious Body of Our Lord (H); two others help with the chalices of Precious Blood of our Lord (C). (Usually the Lector at the Mass is one of these three.)
2. During the giving of the "Sign of Peace" the three Extraordinary Ministers of Communion should move to their places near the altar:
 - a. The Minister of the Precious Body of Our Lord [H] first goes to the tabernacle, opens the tabernacle, bows (it is not necessary to genuflect during Mass), removes the ciborium with the Precious Body of Our Lord and takes it to the altar. He stands behind the altar to the left of the two chalice ministers[C] and to the right of the servers [S]. (See diagram "A".)
 - b. One of the distributors coming up to the altar from the congregation should pick up the offertory basket next to the altar and take it to the closet in the sacristy. Close the closet door to lock it. Move to the appropriate place behind the altar.
 - c. All ministers should apply hand sanitizer, on the small shelf near the sacristy door, before distributing Holy Communion.

Diagram "A"



3. After giving the Precious Body of Our Lord to the Extraordinary Ministers of Communion and servers, the priest ministers the chalices to the two Chalice Ministers [C] -- giving them each a chalice and a purificator; they in turn minister the Precious Blood of Our Lord to the other Communion Minister and the servers. Communion is distributed to anyone sitting in the front pews (elderly, handicapped, etc.) before the distributors go to their respective Communion Stations. (See diagram "B".)

Diagram "B"



4. The communicants approach and stand in front of the Eucharistic Ministers. The Minister of the Precious Body of Our Lord [H] shows the Consecrated Host to each communicant and says, *The Body of Christ*. The communicant bows and answers *Amen* and receives the Precious Body of Our Lord. The communicant then moves to the Minister of the Chalice and stands before her (him). The Minister says, *The Blood of Christ*; the communicant bows and answers, *Amen*; the Minister holds out the Chalice for the communicant to take and drink. The Minister of the Chalice wipes the **rim** of the chalice with the **purificator** and **turns the chalice a little** for the next communicant.

5. When all communicants have received the Precious Body and Blood of Our Lord, the Minister of the Precious Body of Our Lord combines their Consecrated Hosts with those of the celebrant (at the altar) and returns the Precious Body of Our Lord to the tabernacle. Then the Minister of the Precious Body of Our Lord goes to the Sacristy with any empty plate or ciborium he/she may have. Leave the key in the tabernacle.

Any Precious Blood of Our Lord remaining in the chalice is to be consumed by the Minister of the Chalice at the altar, facing the tabernacle. Then the Minister of the Chalice goes to the Sacristy with the empty Chalice.

6. The sacred vessels are then purified by the priest (at the altar) and Ministers in the sacristy. If any particle of the Precious Body of Our Lord adheres to one's fingers, it should be received and the fingers washed. The chalices may be rinsed once (after consuming any remaining Precious Blood of Our Lord.) Water used to wash the chalices and ciborium or plate should be poured into the *sacrarium*. The rinsed chalices should be placed on the towel next to the sink. **DO NOT turn the rinsed chalices upside down** as they leave a stain on the towel. The purificators are folded and left next to the chalices. A rinsed ciborium or plate is placed on the same towel.
7. **If some of the Precious Body or Blood of Our Lord is spilled or falls to the floor, please inform the Priest after Mass.**
8. After the Ministers have finished rinsing the chalices and ciborium or plate, they should leave the sacristy together, reverence the altar together, and return to their places.

(The above directions are taken from the Directives for celebrating Mass, sections 237 through 244, found in the front of the *Sacramentary*.)