



*The Ministry of Eucharist*  
The Cathedral of St. John the Evangelist  
Milwaukee, Wisconsin

**Eucharistic Minister's  
Handbook 2003**



# *The Ministry of Eucharist Minister*

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### **The Distribution of Eucharist**

Thank you for participating in the ministry of Eucharistic Minister at the Cathedral of St. John the Evangelist. This ministry is vital to the worshiping community, as you assist in bringing Christ to those around you in the Blessed Sacrament.

The communion rite is at the heart and center of the entire Eucharistic liturgy. Serving as an extraordinary minister of the Eucharist is an honor and a privilege. As commissioned Christians, we are called to act as an example to the faithful through piety and reverence of the sacrament. To promote dignity and lead each communicant into the prayer that is the action of sharing communion, ministers should possess sufficient maturity not to call attention to them or to distract from the sanctity of the celebration.

By baptism you are called to share Christ with others at home, at work, in your neighborhood and in every place you are able. Chosen by the Christian community to assist in the distribution of the Eucharist in the church's Worship, you will strengthen the faith of believers and enable them to share the presence of Christ more effectively wherever they live, work and play.

### **Spirituality**

*"While the heart of the celebration of the Eucharist is the Eucharistic Prayer, the consummation of the Mass is found in Holy Communion, whereby the people purchased for the Father by his beloved Son eat and drink the Body and Blood of Christ" (NDR, 5).*

As Catholics, we fully participate in the celebration of the Eucharist when we receive Holy Communion. As an extraordinary minister in the distribution of the Eucharist, we must continue to offer fitting lives as we perform a great ministry in the Church. A person who is conscious of grave sin is not to receive communion. Therefore, we must take it upon ourselves to regularly take care of our spiritual health by participating in the Sacrament of Reconciliation and other opportunities of prayer.

We are living examples of Christ in the Eucharist, may we continue to welcome him into our lives!

## Step-by-Step Procedural Guide

1. Schedules are distributed via first class mail. Should you misplace your schedule during its term, please request a replacement from the Associate Director of Liturgy & Music.
2. By participating in this ministry you have made a commitment to the community. Be conscientious to following through on this commitment.  
**If you are not able to make your assigned date or time, it is your responsibility to get a replacement.** A list of Eucharistic Ministers with their phone numbers has been provided. Phone the Associate Director of Liturgy & Music for a replacement only after you have failed in an honest attempt to get a replacement yourself. Try to contact the replacement or ADLM before Thursday. If you know in advance of the next schedule that there are dates you are not available, please let the ADLM know so that your circumstances can be taken into account as the schedule is drawn up.
3. Please dress appropriately. You are generally the first person that the worshiper sees upon entering the Cathedral. As such, your appearance is very important. Please, no jeans or shorts.

### Before Mass:

3. **Arrive no later than 15 minutes prior to your scheduled Mass.** After signing in outside the vesting sacristy, check to see if any special functions or events that require further attention.
4. There is a secure place for your coat and purse (please no purse hanging from the shoulder or wearing of coats while you distribute the Blessed Sacrament).
5. Take your place wherever you wish in the congregation near the altar.
6. **8 minutes prior to Mass**, the Sacristan or Associate Director of Liturgy & Music will assess the day's roster to see who has checked in. It is at this time that they will find substitutes for those individuals who have not checked-in. Should a replacement be found and you arrive after the substitution has been made, you are asked to kindly allow the substitution to remain.

### During Mass:

7. Please participate fully in the liturgy. As an extraordinary minister of the Eucharist you give example to the rest of the congregation when participating in the hymns and prayers.

8. **During the “Lamb of God,”** the extraordinary ministers of the Eucharist should approach the altar area and take their place behind the presider.
9. After the presider completes his communion, he will distribute communion (host) to the extraordinary ministers (cup bearers, first). An altar server or the deacon will follow with the cup. Immediately receive communion and wait at your place until all ministers have received communion.
10. After all extraordinary ministers have received the Blessed Sacrament, the ministers will process to the altar to receive their vessel from the presider (cups first, followed by bread).
11. When you have received your vessel, proceed to your assigned place.
12. Remember: EYE CONTACT. All extraordinary ministers should use eye contact when distributing Eucharist. Also, be sure to allow enough time for the communicant to make their “gesture of reverence” (bow of the head).
13. Cup Bearers: please unfold and make use of the entire purificators, turning the cup and purificator frequently.
14. If you run out of wine, turn toward the server who will bring you more wine, if possible. If not, place the purificator over the cup and remain at your station with your hand over the cup. This will signal to the people that you no longer able to offer them the cup.
15. After all have been served, remain at your station for the altar server to retrieve your vessel. Cup Bearers: should you have an amount in your cup that could be consumed, please do so. It is requested by the GIRM that all wine be consumed at this time.
16. Please remain at your station until the presider makes a sign of reverence and begins to return to his chair. At this point, return to your seat.

**After Mass:**

17. After Mass those assigned purify the sacred vessels as usual. The used purificators are placed in the laundry basket under the sink – DO NOT REUSE THEM! Reminder: **EMB3** and **EMB4** are assigned to purify and wash vessels.

Again, thank you for your ministry. Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to ask.

## Prayers for the Eucharistic Minister

Almighty and everlasting God,  
behold we approach the sacrament  
of thy only-begotten Son, our Lord Jesus Christ.  
As sick, we come to the Physician of life:  
As unclean, to the Fountain of mercy:  
As blind, to the Light of eternal splendor:  
As needy, to the Lord of heaven and earth:  
As naked, to the King of glory.

*Thomas Aquinas*

Strengthen for service, Lord, the hands that I have taken holy things; may the ears which have heard your word be deaf to clamor and dispute; may the tongues which have sung your praise be free from deceit; may the eyes which have seen the tokens of your love shine with the light of hope; and may the bodies which have been fed with your body be refreshed with the fullness of your life; glory to you for ever.

*Liturgy of Malabar*

Jesus my Lord, my God, my All,  
How can I love thee as I ought?  
And how revere this wondrous gift,  
So far surpassing hope or thought?  
Sweet Sacrament, we thee adore!  
O make us love thee more and more!  
O make us love thee more and more!

Had I but Mary's sinless heart,  
To love thee with, my dearest King;  
O! with what bursts of fervent praise,  
They goodness, Jesus would I sing.  
Sweet Sacrament, we thee adore!  
O make us love thee more and more!  
O make us love thee more and more!

*Frederick W. Faber*