

PRACTICAL SUMMARY OF MINISTERS OF COMMUNION WORKSHOP

Thanks to all who were able to attend the workshop last week.

For those who were unable to attend, I have a hard copy of the hand outs given to us by Fr. Kuzma.

The handouts are from the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops and from our own Diocesan Liturgy Office.

The documents are short, precise and offer good clarity on the role of the lector.

Please see me after Mass to receive your hard copy if you don't have one yet.

We encourage you to read both for better understanding of why we do what we do, and also as an affirmation of this very important ministry. Later in the fall, at the Masses in each church, there will be a (re)commissioning of all volunteers to this Ministry.

Below is a summary of the practical points of performing this ministry at St. Mary's and the Missions.

Directions for Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion

St. Mary's and the Missions Parish

updated Oct. 23, 16

Distributing Holy Communion During Mass:

1. Approach the sanctuary to assist in the distribution of Holy Communion during the singing of the Lamb of God.
2. Stand to the side of the altar, and not behind the priest, during the Communion Rite, so as to minimize movement in the sanctuary.
3. After receiving Holy Communion from the priest, take the ciborium from the priest, and go to your place beside the priest for the distribution of Holy Communion.
4. After the distribution of Holy Communion is completed, return to the sanctuary, place the ciborium on the altar, and purify your fingers.
5. Wait for the priest to return the Blessed Sacrament to the tabernacle, bow to the tabernacle when the priest genuflects, and then return to your seat.

Things to follow:

Blessing of children and adults

6. When children come up for a blessing, extend your hand and touch the top of their head with the back of your hand and say the words: "May God bless you". Please do not draw special attention to yourself during the blessing of children by bending down to their level and beginning a conversation with them. This should be a sacred ritual of God's blessing and not a time to socialize with the child.
7. When adults come up for a blessing, the same words can be used: "May God bless you", but without touching the adult. The sign of the cross should not be made during this prayer of blessings, so as not to confuse this prayer for God's blessing with the blessing offered by the priest at the end of Mass.

Dropping the Consecrated Host

8. If the host falls on the floor during the distribution of communion please pick it up and give it to the priest who should be distributing Holy Communion beside you. The priest will ask you to step to the center and continue distributing Holy Communion to both lines as he takes care of this situation.

Someone walks away with the host

9. If you see someone walking away with the host in his/her hand, and it seems clear to you that the person is not going to consume the host (look for signs of someone being confused about what to do), please follow after the person and ask them to either consume the host or give it back to you. If the person gives it back to you, simply place it on the patten (gold place) which is on the altar, and return to distributing Holy Communion.

Using proper names

10. The proper title for this ministry is Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion, and not Eucharistic Ministers. Our Bishops have asked us to use the correct title. Here is the difference:
 - a. Eucharistic Ministers are those who officiate at the celebration of the Eucharist: priests and bishops.
 - b. Ministers of Holy Communion are those who assist priests and bishops in the distribution of communion during the Eucharist.
11. To make things easier we will use a shorter version of the name of this ministry, namely: MINISTERS OF COMMUNION.

For Ministers of Holy Communion in Owen Sound....if you are unable to be present when scheduled, and have been unable to find a substitute, please call me (Corry) before 4pm on Saturday, and before 8am on Sunday, and I will attempt to find a lector in attendance to cover for you.

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