

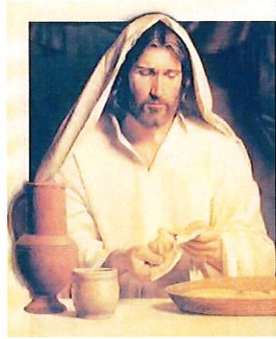
Extraordinary Ministers of the Eucharist



Last Supper by Del Parson

*Saint Mary Catholic Church
Solon, Iowa*

July 2019



The Eucharist is the most central expression of our Catholic faith – our source and summit. It is a sacrifice of thanksgiving to the Father for the gifts of creation and the gift of his Son. Jesus is truly present in the Bread and Wine consecrated through the priest. The entire Christ is really present to the faithful receiving sacramental Holy Communion. Through the reception of

the Eucharist at Mass we share in and become the Body of Christ.

Through the Eucharist we participate in Christ's sacrifice for the world. We surrender ourselves to the transforming power of his passion, death and resurrection in our lives.

The Eucharist is a foretaste of the heavenly banquet. At the Eucharistic table we are joined with the communion of Christians around the world and the communion of angels and saints who praise God at the heavenly banquet. The bread of heaven, the food of eternal life, gives us the divine life that makes us children of God. It fills us with the life of the Holy Spirit, who forgives our sins, brings us to life, unites us in love and energizes us for service.

The Eucharist is given to us as strength and nourishment so we may carry on the work of Jesus: to proclaim the good news of salvation and to reconcile the world to God in Christ in our ordinary lives. Like the Lord, whose body was broken and whose life was poured out for us, we continue his mission of service through participation in Holy Communion. We are sent forth to be broken and poured out like Christ in order to feed the hungry and satisfy the thirsty.

The Eucharist binds us together as one body. It renews our participation in the life of Christ that we share in the Church. We enter into deeper communion with Christ, with the divine life of the Trinity, and with each other in the whole Body of Christ over time and space.

Your Special Liturgical Ministry:



Extraordinary Ministers help the distribution of Holy Communion to proceed smoothly.

The “ordinary” ministers of Communion are those who

are ordained — bishop,

priest and deacon.

For all of the ordained, the ministry of Communion is an expected part of their role at Mass.

But in their absence or when not enough of them are present, the Bishop commissions “extraordinary” ministers of Communion to assist with the distribution of Communion when the number of people in the assembly, or the disability of the celebrant, or some other pastoral necessity makes it necessary for them to assist the presider.

Because of their close association with the Eucharist, Extraordinary Communion Ministers are called to represent Christ. They must become what they give, that is, they must become and live as the Body of Christ they give to their brothers and sisters. Such ministers are obliged to set an example for the parish by their devotion toward the Eucharist.

This is shown when exhibiting the following qualities:

Humility – serving the assembly instead of drawing attention to oneself.

Hospitality – making everyone feel welcome at God’s table (Communion anticipates the heavenly banquet where all are honored guests). Be attentive, relaxed, smile, give eye contact, distribute at an unhurried

Gratitude – “Eucharist” comes from the Greek word for “thanks.” The Eucharist is about giving thanks and praise to God by remembering God’s actions throughout history. This keeps us grateful and hopeful because what God has done in the past he will continue to do. In the Eucharist we express personal gratitude for what God has done in our lives. We receive the gift of the Lord’s presence with grateful hearts and share that gift and his blessings generously and joyfully with others.

Reverence – shown in our approach to the altar, how we handle the Blessed Sacrament, how we dress, our posture and our gestures.

Extraordinary Ministers of Communion care for the Body of Christ that is the Church – our fellow parishioners. They recognize the presence of Christ in the communicants who come before them. They sense our unity in Christ through the ritual that all of us share. The Eucharist unites the Church in love in all our diversity so that Christ might be everything in all of us.



Your Ministry at Saint Mary's

PREPARATION:

Four ministers are assigned for every Lord's Day Mass. The ministry schedule and a contact roster are published quarterly. A reminder is always in the Sunday bulletin and will also be emailed from the scheduling system. **If you are not able to serve at a given liturgy, please contact a substitute.**

Please sign in on the chart in the sacristy before Mass.

PROCEDURES:

If a deacon is not ministering at Mass, one additional Eucharistic minister needs to help with communion.

During the Sign of Peace all gather at the credence (servers') table behind the altar. Use the hand sanitizer. Put on a cross pendant that will be found at the credence table area.

The liturgical norm is to consecrate only the amount of bread needed for each Mass. Therefore **there is no need to ordinarily go to the tabernacle before Communion.**

However, there will be times when the priest will ask one of you, to bring the Blessed Sacrament from the chapel to the altar. If so, the priest will gesture to one of you to do so.

As the priest begins to receive Holy Communion, you and the musicians approach the altar & stand behind the priest.

The priest gives the Body of Christ to you & the musicians.

He (& deacon) gives the Blood of Christ to the two outside ministers. They keep the chalice & purificator and minister the cup to the others behind the altar. **When a deacon is ministering at Mass, he will minister one of the cups.**

The priest gives the remaining ministers a communion bowl with the Body of Christ.

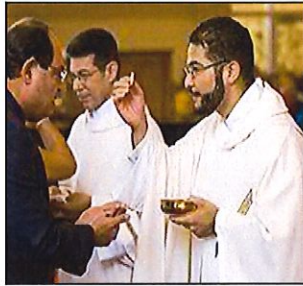
All proceed to a communion station:

- + Priest at the head of the main aisle.
- + One Body distributor next to the priest.
- + Body distribution stations where front pews "bend."
- + Cup stations at walls by front pew.
- + Minister at chapel side: give Communion to the servers if the priest does not, then stand by the incenser to give Communion to those in the side pews. Then move by main pews to give Communion to rest of the assembly. If one of the ushers informs you, go to the back of the church to distribute Communion to those with special needs.
- + Minister at choir side: proceed close to where pew bends,

After All Have Received Holy Communion:

- Cup ministers go to the credence table. Reverently consume the rest of the Precious Blood at the table. Place a purificator over the cup. Return to your pew.
- Bread ministers return to the altar. The priest will put whatever hosts remain into one bowl. The last Bread minister takes the bowl to the Eucharistic Chapel and adds the hosts to the bowl in the tabernacle. **He/she genuflects after closing the tabernacle door.** Place the empty bowl on the credence table. Return to your pew. You may use hand sanitizer again if you wish.

How to Distribute Holy Communion:



The Bread Minister:

- Hold the host in front of the communicant's eyes.
- Say, "The Body of Christ"
- Keep holding the host until he/she responds "Amen."
- Place the host in the hands or on the tongue.



The Cup Minister:

- Present the cup to the communicant.
- Say, "The Blood of Christ"
- Wait until he/she responds "Amen."
- Allow the communicant to hold the chalice and drink
- When the cup is returned to you, wipe the inside and outside of the rim with the purificator.
- Turn the cup before ministering to the next communicant.

Small Children:

You may lay your hand on the child's head and say "May God bless you."

Accidents:

If a host is dropped, reverently pick it up from the floor and either place it in the palm of your hand or consume it. After communion is finished, if not consumed, place the host on the corporal on the altar and let the priest know to consume it.

If some of the Precious Blood is spilled on the floor, place the purificator over the area. Get another purificator from the servers' table and continue to distribute the cup as usual. The priest or deacon will clean the area after Mass.

All Ministers Help After Mass:

If any of the precious body or blood remains in any of the vessels, you may add a small amount of water from the cruet, and either consume the contents, or empty into the sink under the metal lid in the sacristy.

Wash the chalices and the communion bowls with soap and water in the regular sacristy sink. Please **DO NOT submerge the cups**. There is material in the base that will be damaged if submerged. Please also wash and dry all vessels very gently and carefully.

Place used purificators in large jar of water.

Fill the water cruet, water pitcher and wine carafe. Put water cruet and wine carafe in refrigerator.

Empty and dry ceramic bowl.

After the 10:30 Mass or last Holy Day Mass:

Since it is the last Mass of the day, put all of the dishes, chalices, etc., away in the sacristy behind the altar. The

Set up for the Next Mass:

On the credence (servers') table:

- 4 purificators
- 1 corporal
- Ceramic pitcher and bowl
- Hand towel
- 3 silver communion bowls
- 2 empty chalices (after 8:30 Mass only.) Please leave in the sacristy after 5:00 pm Mass and put away after last Mass of the day.

After 8:30 Mass only, you may take the large communion bowl to the ushers' table in the back of the church.

Please remember to remove the cross pendant and return it to the location at the credence table.

Thank you for your service!!!!

The liturgy is not 'the field of do-it-yourself', but the epiphany of ecclesial communion."

– Pope Francis