

Extraordinary Minister of

ST. MATTHEW THE EVANGELIST PARISH

Holy Communion

EXTRAORDINARY MINISTER OF HOLY COMMUNION “EMHC”

With large number of the faithful receiving Holy Communion, the priest may need assistance in distributing Holy Communion, so that the Rite is not unduly long. (General Instruction of the Roman Missal, no. 281)

The **Sunday Eucharist**, which gathers the local community and in which all play their proper parts, is the primary manifestation of the parish community. And thus deserves particularly diligent consideration and preparation, (Vatican Council II, *Sacrosanctum Concilium*, nos. 49, 106)

-The Eucharist is a liturgical meal of bread and wine, which is almost always preceded by a service of reading the Scriptures. Christians attribute the origin of the Eucharist to Jesus Christ himself at the Last Supper on the night before he died. Many Christians regard the Eucharist as a sacrament and as their central ritual, and many celebrate the Eucharist weekly or even more often. This sacred meal has had various names throughout history: the Lord's Supper, Holy Communion, the Offering, the Divine Liturgy, the Mass. The most common name in the early 21st century, however, is Eucharist, which derives from the Greek word *Eucharistia*, a thanksgiving.

-By his Real Presence in the Eucharist Christ fulfills his promise to be with us "always, until the end of the age" (Mt 28:20). As St. Thomas Aquinas wrote, "It is the law of friendship that friends should live together. . . . Christ has not left us without his bodily presence in this our pilgrimage, but he joins us to himself in this sacrament in the reality of his body and blood" (*Summa Theologiae*, III q. 75, a. 1). With this gift of Christ's presence in our midst, the Church is truly blessed. As Jesus told his disciples, referring to his presence among them, "Amen, I say to you, many prophets and righteous people longed to see what you see but did not see it, and to hear what you hear but did not hear it" (Mt 13:17).

CHURCHES OF ST. ANDREW AND ST. THERESA

God so loved the world that He gave His only Son, so that everyone who believes in Him not perish but have eternal life.

All EMHC Ministers must fill-out a CORI and a Code of Conduct form per the directives of the Archdiocese of Boston.

The Music Ministry will receive Holy Communion at the end of the procession.

“Body of Christ”
In the Communion procession - please do not cut-off anyone. They have a right to process to the table.

In the Eucharist the Church both receives the gift of Jesus Christ and gives grateful thanks to God for such a blessing. This thanksgiving is the only proper response, for through this gift of himself in the celebration of the Eucharist under the appearances of bread and wine Christ gives us the gift of eternal life.

Amen, amen, I say to you, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink his blood, you do not have life within you. Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood has eternal life, and I will raise him on the last day. For my flesh is true food, and my blood is true drink. . . . Just as the living Father sent me and I have life because of the Father, so also the one who feeds on me will have life because of me. (Jn 6:53-57)

-The ‘ordinary ministers’ of Holy Communion are bishop, priest, deacon or instituted acolytes. (EM-Eucharistic Minister)

-With the large number of the faithful receiving Holy Communion, the priest celebrant may need assistance distributing Holy Communion, so that the Rite is not unduly long. (*General Instruction of the Roman Missal, No. 281.*)

-All ministers of Holy Communion should show their greatest reverence for the Most Holy Eucharist by their demeanor, their attire, and the manner in which they handle the consecrated bread or wine.

-Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion are called to serve the whole communities of the Parish by ministering the Body of Christ.

-Your ministry of Holy Communion (EMHC) is not to a singular Mass. The EMHC ministry distributes Holy Communion at daily Mass, Sunday Mass, Holy Day Mass, Funeral Mass, and to the homebound.

-Prayer and love of the Eucharist are essential for this ministry.

-Since the Eucharistic Celebration is the Paschal Banquet, it is desirable that in keeping with the Lord’s command, His Body and Blood should be received as spiritual food by the faithful who are properly disposed. (*General Instruction of the Roman Missal, No. 8*)

EXTRAORDINARY MINISTER OF HOLY COMMUNION

The liturgical blessing of the Mass is given to all the faithful at the conclusion of the Mass, and extraordinary ministers are not to bless persons (and/or lay a hand/hands upon them) in place of administering the Sacrament.

Holy Days, Christmas, Holy Week, and Triduum Liturgical Schedules will be developed as an entire Parish. You will receive a survey asking your availability to serve.

- EMHC serve the parish in a 3-year term, which is renewable.
- The Body, Blood, Soul and Divinity of Christ are present under both the Body of Christ and the Blood of Christ.
- “That more perfect form of participation in the Mass whereby the faithful, after the priest’s communion, receive the Lord’s body from the same sacrifice, is strongly commended.” (*Sacrosanctum Concilium* article 55).
- Further supported by the General Instruction of the Roman Missal: It is most desirable that the faithful, just as the priest himself is bound to do, receive the Lord’s Body and Blood from hosts consecrated at the same Mass and that, in the cases where this is foreseen, they partake of the chalice (cf. no. 283), so that even by means of the signs Communion may stand out more clearly as an in-participation in the sacrifice actually being celebrated.
- At the Sign of Peace:** You come forward- sanitize your hands and continue to wear your mask because of the Pandemic. Markers are set on the floor where all ministers should stand.
- The distribution of the Precious Blood of Christ (Chalice) continues to be suspended.
- When receiving Communion, the extraordinary minister bows his or her head as a sign of reverence before receiving the Sacrament. After receiving Communion, an extraordinary minister may accept a sacred vessel from the priest and assist him in administering the Sacrament to the other extraordinary ministers.
- The purification of sacred vessels at Mass may be done only by a priest, deacon or instituted acolyte (GIRM, n. 279).
- After the vessels have been purified, they should be washed by the sacristan, an extraordinary minister of communion, or some other designated person.
- If the Eucharistic bread or some particle of it falls, it should be picked up reverently by the minister. The consecrated bread may be consumed or completely dissolved in water before being poured down the sacrarium. The sacrarium is a sink in the priests’ sacristy that drains directly into the soil. Ciboria, chalices and patens are washed in this sink.

When the EMHC has finished distributing Holy Communion, place your plate on the altar and return to your seat. You do not need to stand in the sanctuary. At St. Theresa's church, the far side EMHCs, are to assist the center sections of the church. Floor signs are marked to where to stand.

-Communion to the home-bound: EMHC are to take the Body of Christ directly from the Sunday or Daily Mass to the sick and to those unable to leave their homes. EMHC are to put the needed bread into a pyx and place the pyx on the credence table before the start of Mass. After the PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION, you will come forward, the priest will hand you the pyx and dismiss you to bring Holy Communion to the homebound.

-General Instruction of the Roman Missal (GIRM) states one (ministry) should carry out solely but completely that which pertains to him or her, in virtue of the rank of each within the People of God.

-Your ministry is only effective in the parish. At any given Mass, your ministry is nothing more, but fully that which pertains to it. Meaning, if you are serving as an EMHC, you are the EMHC at that celebration. Taking on any other liturgical ministry; such as altar server, musician, and/or Reader is not permissible.

-Once candidates are identified, a personal invitation should be extended from the pastor or his delegate to an appropriate number of qualified individuals.

-Extraordinary ministers must be Catholics, whose qualities of Christian life, faith and morals recommend them. In the Archdiocese of Boston, they must have received the sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation and Eucharist, be at least sixteen years of age and participate regularly in the liturgical and sacramental life of the Church. If the extraordinary minister is married, the marriage must be one recognized by the Church.

-Once chosen, EMHC are commissioned to serve in the parish.

-It is understood that a pastor or bishop may terminate the service of an extraordinary minister of Holy Communion at any time, and the extraordinary minister may also resign at any time.

-Tabernacle: the reason the Church reserves the Eucharist outside of Mass is, primarily, the administration of Viaticum to the dying and, secondarily, Communion of the sick, Communion outside of Mass, and adoration of Christ present in the sacrament (see *Holy Communion and Worship of the Eucharist Outside of Mass*, no. 5). Only under rare circumstances of necessity should the assembly at Mass communicate from the reserved sacrament in the tabernacle.