



HOLY FACE OF JESUS

P A R I S H

Procedures for Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion (EMHC)

Basics

- When distributing Holy Communion either say, "The Body of Christ," or "The Blood of Christ" depending on which species you are distributing. Do not include any other words or exclude any of the words.
 - As you are walking with the chalice or ciborium, please cover the chalice with your hand, if you are able.
 - Before distributing Holy Communion, you can use hand sanitizer. Please do so if you may be contagious.
 - After distributing the Body of Christ, please purify your fingers in the ablution cup on the credence table or near the tabernacle.
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Spills and Fallen Fragments

- If a Consecrated Host is dropped:
 - Pick up the fallen host
 - Place the fallen host on the priest paten which is on the altar
 - Take the priest purificator from the altar and mark the spot on the floor where the host fell
 - Distribute the remaining hosts to the congregation
 - Inform the priest and deacon that a host fell on the floor so that they can purify the spot
 - They may ask you to purify the spot. If so: purify the spot with a purificator and water, ensure any fragments are gathered or wiped up
- If Precious Blood is spilled:
 - Place your purificator over the area of spill to ensure no one steps on the spot
 - Ask the next person in line to stand there so no one walks on the spilled Blood
 - Place your chalice on the altar
 - Get water and the purificator from the altar, or a new purificator from the sacristy
 - Return and cleanse area, first soaking up Precious Blood with purificator, then pouring water over area, then soaking up water with purificator, ensuring it is cleaned
 - Place the used purificator in sacristy container to be purified
 - Resume distributing the Precious Blood

For Those Not Receiving Holy Communion

- Do not offer a blessing, nor make the sign of the cross over them. Blessings are reserved for bishops, priests, and deacons.
- Do not make the sign of the cross on their forehead; you may have particles of the Eucharist on your fingertips.
- Tell them, "Receive Jesus in your heart."

What if someone doesn't look Catholic or they don't know what they're doing?

If they have the Eucharist in their hand:

- Ask them: "Are you Catholic?"
- If they are Catholic, tell them they must consume the Eucharist
- If they aren't Catholic, take the Eucharist back and say the words above

If you haven't given them Holy Communion and they look unsure:

- Ask them if they are Catholic or
- If they are children, ask if they have received their First Communion
- Respond accordingly

Other Points

- After distributing the Blood of Christ, any remaining Precious Blood should be brought to the altar. The Priest and Deacon or acolyte consumes remaining Precious Blood. They may ask the EMHC to help in consuming the Precious Blood. (GIRM #284, b.)
- If people bring a pyx for the homebound in the Communion line, do not fill it. They need to be an EMHC to handle the Eucharist. Ask them to see Father after Mass.
- Do not give anyone multiple hosts, i.e., "can you give me one for my mom who's in back of church and can't walk?" Tell them to show you where the person is in church and you can bring them Communion at the end of distribution.
- No allowing of intinction. Intinction is when a person takes the host and dips it into the Precious Blood.

Terminology

It is important to use correct terminology when speaking of the Eucharist. At the beginning of Mass, bread and wine are brought to the altar. Once the priest prays the prayers of consecration, these simple elements become the Body, Blood, Soul, and Divinity of Jesus Christ. They are no longer bread and wine. Though the elements appear the same to our eyes, touch, smell, and taste, they are not the same. As EMHCs it is essential that we use the proper language when speaking of Jesus in the Eucharist and in speaking of the Eucharist as the Precious Blood or the Body of Christ or Host. It is also important to speak of the sacred vessels using the correct terminology. Here are a few examples of proper and improper use of language as well as a description of the vessels with photos:

Correct terminology: "An EMHC distributes Precious Blood from the Chalice"

Incorrect terminology: "I distribute wine from the cup"

Correct terminology: "I distribute the Body of Christ from the Ciborium (resembles a chalice) or from a paten (has a plate or bowl shape without a stem)"

Incorrect terminology: "I distribute the bread from the bowl"

Correct terminology: "The priest cleanses the sacred vessels after Holy Communion is distributed so as not to lose any particles of the Eucharist"

Incorrect terminology: "The priest washes the dishes"

Examples of Sacred Vessels

Chalice - holds Precious Blood



Purificator - used for wiping Chalice



Ciborium - holds Consecrated Hosts/Body of Christ



Priest Paten



Paten - also for distribution of Holy Communion



Ablution Cup - for purifying fingers

