

**ADMINISTRATION OF COMMUNION
TO THE SICK
BY AN EXTRAORDINARY MINISTER**



Saint Anthony of Padua

Folk, Missouri

The texts and directives in this booklet are adapted from *Holy Communion and Worship of the Eucharist outside Mass* and updated in accordance with the new English translation of the Roman Missal.

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**THE ORDINARY RITE
OF COMMUNION OF THE SICK**

The extraordinary minister greets those present. For example:

Peace to this house and to all who live in it.

Then the minister places the sacrament on the table, and all adore it.

The extraordinary minister says:

Brethren (brothers and sisters), let us acknowledge our sins, and so prepare ourselves to celebrate the sacred mysteries.

A brief pause for silence follows.

The extraordinary minister continues:

**Lord Jesus, you healed the sick: Lord,
have mercy.**

R. Lord, have mercy.

**Lord Jesus, you forgave sinners: Christ,
have mercy.**

R. Christ, have mercy.

**Lord Jesus, you give us yourself to heal
us and bring us strength: Lord, have
mercy.**

R. Lord, have mercy.

The extraordinary minister concludes:

**May almighty God have mercy on us,
forgive us our sins,
and bring us to everlasting life.**

The people answer: **Amen.**

A brief passage from sacred Scripture may then be read by one of those present or by the extraordinary minister.

1 Corinthians 11:26

For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the death of the Lord until he comes.

The extraordinary minister then introduces the Lord's Prayer in these or similar words:

Now let us pray together to the Father in the words given us by our Lord Jesus Christ.

All say together:

Our Father...

Then the extraordinary minister shows the Holy Eucharist, saying:

**Behold the Lamb of God,
behold him who takes away the sins of
the world.**

**Blessed are those called to the supper of
the Lamb.**

The sick person and others who will receive Communion say:

**Lord, I am not worthy that you should
enter under my roof, but only say the
word and my soul shall be healed.**

The extraordinary minister goes to the sick person and, holding up the sacrament, says:

The Body of Christ.

The sick person answers **Amen** and receives Communion.

Others present then receive in the usual manner.

The extraordinary minister then says the concluding prayer:

Let us pray.

**God our Father, almighty and eternal,
we confidently call upon you,
that the Body of Christ
which our brother (sister) has received
may bring him (her)
lasting health in mind and body.
We ask this through Christ our Lord.**

The people answer: **Amen.**

After a period of silence, the extraordinary minister invokes God's blessing, saying:

**May the Lord bless us,
protect us from all evil
and bring us to everlasting life.**

The people answer: **Amen.**

SHORTER RITE

When Holy Communion is given in different rooms of the same building (e.g., in a hospital or nursing home), this shorter rite may be used.

At the beginning, the extraordinary minister says the following antiphon:

**How holy this feast
in which Christ is our food:
his passion is recalled,
grace fills our hearts,
and we receive a pledge of the glory to
come.**

In each room, before giving Holy Communion, the extraordinary minister says:

**Behold the Lamb of God,
behold him who takes away the sins of
the world.
Blessed are those called to the supper of
the Lamb.**

The extraordinary minister goes to the sick person and, holding up the sacrament, says:

The Body of Christ.

The sick person answers **Amen** and receives Communion.

Others present then receive in the usual manner.

After Communion has been given to all, the rite is concluded with a prayer:

Let us pray.

**God our Father, almighty and eternal,
we confidently call upon you,
that the Body of Christ
which our brothers and sisters have
received
may bring them
lasting health in mind and body.
We ask this through Christ our Lord.**

The people answer: **Amen.**

TAKING HOLY COMMUNION TO THE HOMEBOUND

It is of great spiritual benefit for those who are not able to come to Mass to be able to receive Holy Communion. Extraordinary ministers of Holy Communion help make this practically possible by assisting priests and deacons in this ministry.

Those taking Holy Communion to the homebound should be properly commissioned extraordinary ministers of Holy Communion and should have the permission of the pastor. In the Diocese of Jefferson City, extraordinary ministers must be commissioned every five years.

The role of extraordinary minister of Holy Communion may only be filled by those eligible and able to carry it out. This includes being eighteen years old, fully initiated through Baptism, Confirmation, and the Eucharist, believing fully and entirely the Catholic faith, and living in accord with Church teaching (e.g., if married, in a marriage recognized by the Church; not

publicly holding a job, role, or membership contrary to Catholic teaching or practice).

When taking Holy Communion to the homebound, only a clean, properly blessed pyx should be used to hold the Blessed Sacrament.

The approved ceremony for distributing Holy Communion found in the proper ritual book (reproduced in this booklet) should be followed.¹

The Blessed Sacrament should be taken directly from the church to the place or places where it will be distributed. No other errands or business should be carried out while distributing Holy Communion.²

A table with a clean white cloth should be prepared in the home of the person receiving Holy Communion. Ideally, a candle should be lit. This is the table on which the pyx may be set for a brief period of silent adoration.

1 *Redemptionis Sacramentum* (2004), 133.

2 *Redemptionis Sacramentum* (2004), 133.

The Blessed Sacrament should never be kept in private homes or left unattended (e.g., in a car or on a nightstand). It should be carried in a reverent manner (e.g., in a burse hung around the neck or in a front shirt pocket) on one's person (e.g., not in a glove compartment). Any Hosts that remain after distributing Communion should be returned to the tabernacle immediately.

Christ is present, whole and entire, under the smallest recognizable particle of the Host. Thus, a pyx that has been used to carry the Host must be purified afterwards. The extraordinary minister does this by filling the pyx with clean water, then pouring that water into a glass and drinking it, taking care so that all particles are consumed.³

Extraordinary ministers of Holy Communion cannot delegate their role to others, e.g., relatives or friends, unless these are also properly commissioned extraordinary ministers who have the pastor's permission.⁴

3 *De sacra Communionem et de cultu mysterii eucharistici extra Missam* (1973), n. 62.

4 *Redemptionis Sacramentum* (2004), 159.

The elderly, the sick, and those who care for them are not required to fast from food and drink prior to receiving Holy Communion.⁵

Those who have difficulty swallowing may need to receive only a small fragment of a Host or may need to drink water immediately after receiving.

If someone spits out or vomits part of the Eucharist, this should be gathered into a container as best as possible and brought to the church. The priest should be informed at once.

⁵ *Code of Canon Law*, c. 919 § 3.

GLOSSARY OF TERMS

Ablution Cup: A small bowl of water, usually next to the tabernacle, that is used to purify the fingers after touching the Host.

Chalice: A sacred vessel that holds the Precious Blood of Christ.

Ciborium: A covered container for Hosts.

Corporal: A square cloth upon which the Blessed Sacrament is placed upon the altar. It is folded so as to catch any particles of the Host that may fall.

Monstrance: An ornate vessel used to display a Host solemnly for adoration.

Pall: A stiff, square cloth which covers the chalice during Mass.

Paten: A plate or bowl that is used to hold Hosts during Mass.

Purificator: A cloth that is used for wiping the chalice and for the purification of the sacred vessels.

Pyx: A small container used to carry Hosts when bringing them to the homebound.

Sacrarium: A special sink in the sacristy which drains directly into the ground. It is used for reverently disposing of holy water, blessed ashes, etc.

SELECT CHURCH DOCUMENTS

From the recent Popes on the Holy Eucharist:

Paul VI, *Mysterium fidei* (3 September 1965).

John Paul II, *Dominicae cenae* (24 February 1980).

John Paul II, *Ecclesia de Eucharistia* (17 April 2003).

John Paul II, *Mane nobiscum Domine* (7 October 2004).

Benedict XVI, *Sacramentum caritatis* (22 February 2007).

From the Holy See, on extraordinary ministers:

Sacred Congregation for the Sacraments, *Immensae caritatis* (29 January 1973).

Inter-dicasterial Instruction, *Ecclesiae de mysterio* (15 August 1997), Practical Provisions Article 8.

Congregation for Divine Worship and the Discipline of the Sacraments, *Redemptionis Sacramentum* (25 March 2004), 88, 133, and 146-160.

From the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops:

Committee on Divine Worship,
Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion at Mass (2010).