

Our Lady of the Snows Catholic Church - Liturgical Year 2016-2017

Liturgical Ministers:
Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion (EM)

"Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood has eternal life, and I will raise him up on the last day." John 6:54

Description

An extraordinary minister of Holy Communion (EM) is an individual specially selected and commissioned by the pastor to distribute Holy Communion to the faithful in the following circumstances:

- At Mass, an EM assists the priest-celebrant in the distribution of Holy Communion when, due to an unusually large number of the faithful in attendance, celebration of the Mass would be unduly prolonged;
- When unavailable due to the demands of pastoral ministry or ill health, the pastor may authorize an EM to lead a Holy Communion service outside of Mass and distribute Holy Communion to the faithful in attendance;
- The pastor may authorize an EM to bring and distribute Holy Communion to the faithful who, due to illness or other disability, are homebound.

Qualifications

An EM is an individual who actively participates in the life and liturgy of the Church and the parish and is fully initiated into and in good standing with the Roman Catholic Church. An EM shows great reverence for the Most Holy Eucharist in demeanor, attire, and the manner of handling the Precious Body and Blood of the Lord and the sacred vessels.

Training

One-on-one training may be arranged at any time for new EMs. EM training is comprised of both spiritual formation and practical training and includes the following:

- Approaching the altar platform to receive from the priest-celebrant Holy Communion and the sacred vessels;
- Proceeding to assigned station for distribution of Holy Communion to the faithful;
- Distribution to the faithful of the Precious Body and the Precious Blood, including demeanor of dignity and reverence; prescribed words; distribution of the Precious Body on the hand or on the tongue, standing or kneeling; proper handling of chalice and purificator;
- How to handle mishaps and irregularities;
- Returning the sacred vessels to the priest-celebrant and returning to place in the congregation;
- Additional instructions for distributing Holy Communion outside of Mass at a Communion Service or when taking Holy Communion to the homebound.

Commissioning:

The pastor will commission all newly trained EMs after training is complete and prior to commencing service.

Scheduling:

Scheduling of EMs will be done quarterly (beginning with the first Sunday in Advent). While three EMs are needed for each weekend Mass, only one EM, the Head Extraordinary Minister (HEM), will be scheduled. Commissioned EMs attending Mass are encouraged to serve if called upon.