



HANDBOOK for
EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS OF THE EUCHARIST
Serving at LITURGY



SAINT JOHN *the* **EVANGELIST**
CATHOLIC CHURCH



Dear Extraordinary Ministers of the Eucharist,

It is with great pleasure that I present to you the new Extraordinary Ministers of the Eucharist Handbook. This work is the fruit of much collaboration with the leaders who help organize this invaluable ministry to the People of God. Your participation is crucial and gives witness as you reach out to others with the Real Presence of the Lord. There is such a high dignity in the apostolate in which you share. I cannot think of any greater gift than for one to take Christ and gift him to others. Those who come to our church or those who are housebound or in nursing homes or in hospitals, witness you, a person of love and service, giving them that greatest gift ever – Jesus.

This Handbook offers a comprehensive overview to what is involved in this wonderful ministry. It offers helpful suggestions to assist you. The love and care that is shown in your ministry helps to bring us all together as the Body of Christ. It is my hope that all of us can work together collaboratively to make our ministry evermore fruitful.

With gratitude, I assure you of my prayers and good wishes as we continue together to serve the Lord.

Sincerely in Christ,

Fr. John J. Ludden
Pastor

625 111th Avenue North • Naples, FL 34108 • phone 239-566-8740 • fax 239-566-9117
www.SaintJohnTheEvangelist.com

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Who We Are

*Thank you for Knowing, Loving and Serving God as an Extraordinary Minister of the Eucharist at St. John the Evangelist Catholic Church. As an Extraordinary Minister of the Eucharist you are asked to share Christ's real presence among us. Take the time to prepare yourself spiritually as you serve the Body and Blood of our Lord, Jesus Christ. This important privilege deserves reverence, and therefore, should be done in an orderly manner. These **practical guidelines** are designed to provide consistency for our ministry serving at Mass at Saint John the Evangelist Catholic Church.*

Procedures Prior to Serving at the Liturgy

- **Dress appropriately** and respectfully.
Men: collared shirt and slacks.
Women: dresses, skirts; modest in length, covered shoulders are preferred, dress slacks, capris.
Every attempt should be made to avoid exposing inappropriate parts of the anatomy or attracting personal attention (i.e logo shirts), which distracts from the focus of the Holy Eucharist.
- **Arrive in the sacristy 25-30 minutes PRIOR to Mass.**
- This allows time for: the sacristans to prepare the proper quantity of ciboria, Sacred Cups and purificators, and for **your logistical** preparation, and more importantly, **prayerful** preparation. Take time in prayer to prepare yourself to serve the Body and Blood of Jesus Christ.
If you arrive late a substitute may be appointed to replace you even though you were on the schedule.
- Enter quietly. **Identify Lead EME** (see *Lead EME Duties*) and let them know you are present.
- Using the EME **Sign-In Sheet**, sign your name next to the assigned or selected position, receive special instructions, adorn your cross, obtain a hand sanitizing wipe, pray silently, exit sacristy.
- For **Line up purposes** – review the SIGN-IN SHEET for your exact serving position at that Mass. *Not all Masses require the same number of stations.* Review the MAP for the position locations specific to that Mass. Note how many EMEs are in front of you ~OR~ who will be standing directly in front of you; Sacred Cup EMEs are last in line, in no specific order. The amount of EMEs required per Mass fluctuates based on time of the year. (i.e. Season, Spring/Fall, Summer)
- **Partners** - If you are a Sacred Cup EME, note your ciborium partner (*the Sacred Cup EME will wait at the bottom of the stairs, and then follow the ciborium partner to serve the handicapped first*). If you are a ciborium EME stationed in the rear "wings", also note the ciborium partner who might be standing next to you.
- Review **Special Instructions** associated with your station with the Lead EME; i.e 1) **serve the handicapped first** is priority, or 2) your secondary station(s) once serving is completed at assigned station.
- Obtain a **hand sanitizing wipe**, clip the top of package & take to your seat.
- **Adorn the Cross** associated with your station number from the wall or from the countertop, as it may be set out for you. (*For easy identification, Sacred Cup EME crosses have SILVER chain, SILVER chalice on the face of cross, Ciboria EME crosses have GOLD chain, RED chalice on face of cross*)
- **Locate your Station** on the Positions Map. **Know your position well.** *Ask questions. Do not wait until Communion time to determine your correct station and responsibilities.*
- Place cross around your neck, silently pray the EME prayer, take a sanitizing wipe packet and exit sacristy. *Sanitary Suggestion: Individually wrapped **hand sanitizing wipes** are provided for use at your seat immediately before you serve and after. Remember to dispose of wrap when returning your cross to sacristy. Take time to wash your hands prior to sitting in the church;*
Avoid shaking hands during "sign of peace".
- **Seat location in Church:** During Mass sit on the side of the church where you will serve; EVEN numbers - WEST side ~ ODD numbers - EAST side.
 - Conveniently locate yourself towards the front of church; nearest to front side door/windows, at the end of the pew; avoid sitting more than two EMEs in a pew so as not create ill feelings for other parishioners who may have to step over you.

When to Approach the Sanctuary

- During the reciting of the "Our Father" or another appropriate time, cleanse your hands with the hand wipe provided. **After sharing a Sign of Peace** (avoid shaking hands) , proceed to LINE UP along the side walls:
 - WEST WALL (lector side), line up, **beginning at the St. Vincent de Paul Donation Box**, in order, starting with **4, 6, 8, 10, 12, 2C, 4C, 6C** – this allows for *orderly* departure from sanctuary; wing EMEs exit first.
 - EAST WALL (near piano), LINE UP at the beginning at the St. Vincent de Paul Donation Box in order: starting with **L** or **5, 7, 9, 11, 13** (if choir) **1C, 5C, 7C**; allowing for *orderly* departure; wing and choir EMEs exit first. *No Precious Blood is served to the choir.*
 - In summary: CIBORIA Ministers: front of line, SACRED CUP Ministers: end of line. *If necessary to communicate, display the back of your cross sharing your assigned position. Few words, if any, should be whispered.*
- The Lead EME is first in line on the EAST side, unless there is a Deacon. *(In that case, the Lead EME usually forfeits their opportunity to serve during Mass).*
- Once the **Priest raises his Chalice**, proceed up the side stairs onto the sanctuary, stopping at the edge of the tabernacle. *(The altar servers will stand in front of the tabernacle DOORS, leave space to accommodate them.)*
- Stand **in front** of the floor microphone (located by the Celebrant's chair).

Duties of LEAD EME on Sanctuary:

- In the absence of a deacon or co-celebrant, the Lead EME processes onto sanctuary, **directly** to the priest to receive the Body and Precious Blood. *(you are not required to receive the Blood)*
 - The Celebrant will serve you the Host then the Precious Blood when he will leave BOTH the Chalice and purificator with you. Take both at the same time. Do not make the priest wait.
 - Starting on the EAST side, follow the Celebrant while he serves the Host. You distribute the Precious Blood to the EMEs and Altar Servers who wish to receive (East to West).
 - When you reach the last EME in line, if it is the Celebrant's Chalice, wipe the rim then return the Chalice to the altar; placing the Pall (*stiff square cloth*) on top, not the purificator. If not using the Celebrant's Chalice, hand the cup to the last EME along with the purificator. *The cup ministers are at the end of each side for easy identification for the clergy and fellow EMEs.*
 - The Celebrant/Deacon may hand you a vessel for EME distribution; follow his direction. **DO NOT REMOVE VESSELS FROM THE ALTAR** unless directed to do so by the Celebrant.
 - After all vessels have been distributed, wait for the Celebrant to hand you a ciborium or indicate to you to take your ciborium off the altar, and then proceed together down the front stairs to serve at the foot of the sanctuary.
- Starting from the East side the celebrant will serve the Holy Eucharist to each EME. The co-Celebrant, Deacon or Lead EME will serve the Precious Blood. Reverently stand while waiting to receive.
 - SACRED CUP MINISTERS: After the Clergy says, "Blood of Christ" and after EME says "Amen", accept the Sacred Cup and purificator at the same time. Do NOT shake the purificator on the sanctuary. The folded purificator should be placed over the Sacred Cup before proceeding down the steps.
 - You are not required to partake of the Precious Blood on the sanctuary. Cross your arms over your chest as the clergy/Lead EME approaches you. **Do not shake head or speak.**

EME and Clergy Positions Map

This Map depicts all available SJE Mass Ciboria and Sacred Cup serving positions.

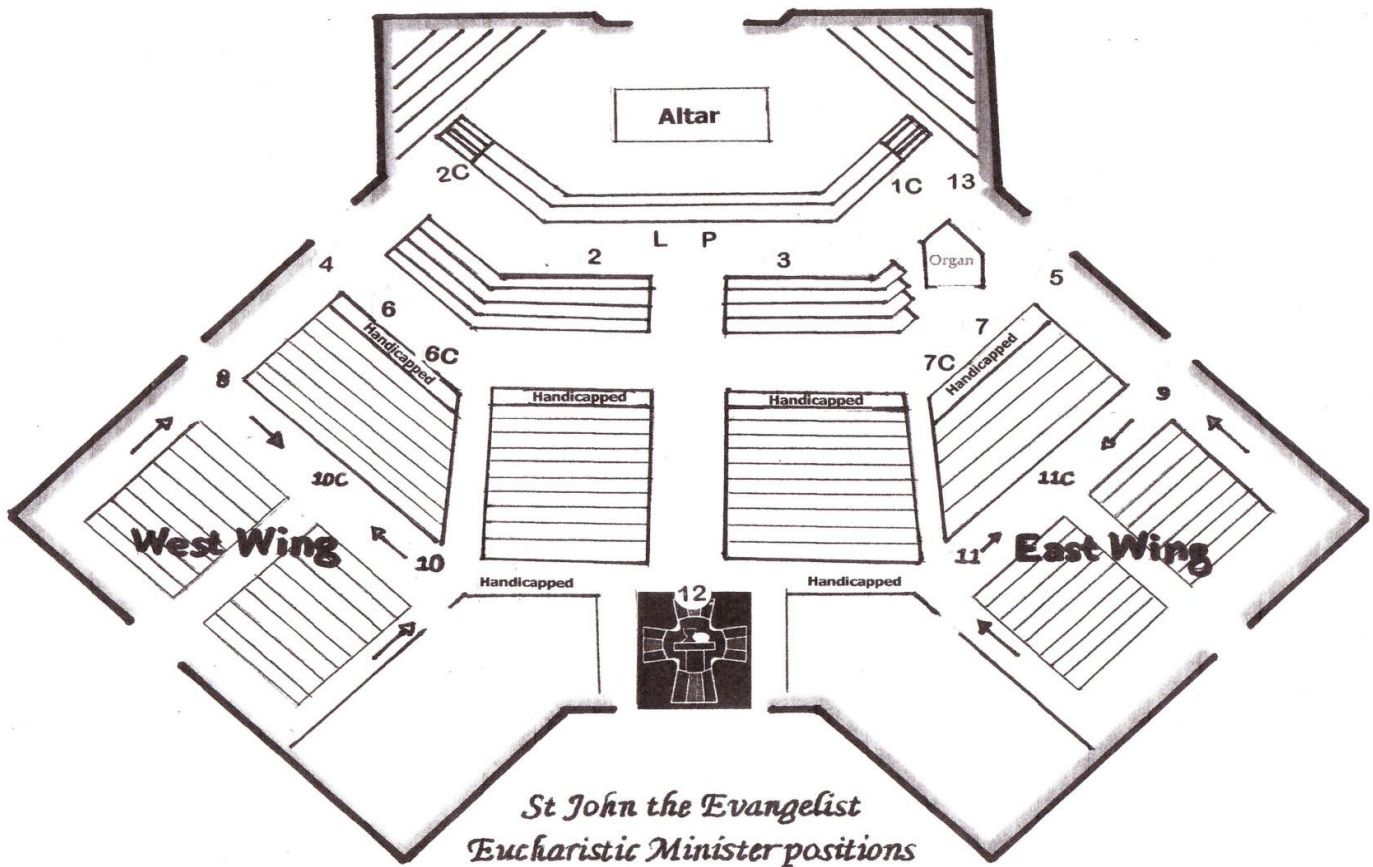
- These positions are based on the individual needs of each Mass, time of the year and their expected congregation.
- "Wing" positions may vary.
 - If the Sacred Cup is served, EMEs (**10C & 11C**) stand in the middle.
 - If NO Sacred Cup is served, both Ciboria EMEs (positions **8, 10** and **9, 11**) will stand in the middle. *Note: **10 & 11 serve the handicapped first, then join 8 & 9 (middle).***
- **Positions 2 & 3** (front): For some heavily attended Masses these are primary positions. For other Masses these are SECONDARY positions; meaning once positions **4, 6** (West) or **5, 7** (East) have completed serving, please look around to see where else you may be able to serve. It could be **2 or 3**. *In theory, the Priest, the privileged **ordinary ordained minister**, should be the last to serve his "faithful".*

SUGGESTION:

4 & 5 - since you already facing the rear of the church, you could assist in the "wings". *Please be aware that during heavily attended Masses (i.e. "season", Easter and Christmas) although it may appear that the 2 Host EMEs serving are doing fine, they may be running out of Hosts. Please move to the wings to assist in that matter. If needed, either replace the EME whose ciborium is empty or trade Ciboria. **Never move the Hosts from one Ciborium to another.** The EME with the empty Ciborium can return it to sacristy, remove their cross and return to their seat.*

6 & 7 - if needed should move to positions **2 & 3** to complete serving. *After serving is complete, the Priest, Deacon/Lead EME will take your Ciborium to the altar and you can return to your seat.*

If there is no position 6 & 7, and if needed, 4 & 5 use your judgement; 1st: look to wings to assist (there can be 3or4 serving) or move to positions 2 & 3 down front.



Processing to Serving Stations

- After all EMEs have received their vessels, process in unison down the steps off the sanctuary to your station. **Do not wait for the clergy/Lead EME to retrieve their vessels** as they may be serving to the faithful with gluten intolerance. This assists in the essence of time.
- Once down the stairs, the SACRED CUP MINISTERS (6C, 10C, 7C, 11C) should step to the side and wait for their EME CIBORIUM partner who together will serve the handicapped first. **(1C & 2C - go directly to their position.)**
- While waiting, unfold the purificator (*linen cloth used to wipe the Sacred Cup after each communicant receives.*) Nonchalantly place the unfolded purificator over the Sacred Cup before following your Ciborium EME partner.
- 1C and 2C positions are to head directly to their position which is noted by a 2-inch silver dot on the tile floor placed at the foot of the stairs. This dot indicates where you are to stand so as not to cause backup at the foot of the Sanctuary.
- If you have a CIBORIUM, place your hand over the top to prevent any from falling out.
- Walk at a steady and moderate pace to your station.
- Serving the choir: A present choir member who is also an EME will serve the Host as position 13 using the paten or the Mass Lead EME will appoint. (*no Precious Blood is served*)

How to Serve the Body and Blood of Christ

- HOST EME: As the communicant approaches, the EME serving the HOST should look directly into the eyes of the communicant, and slightly elevate the HOST and say, **"The Body of Christ"**. The communicant will answer, "Amen", and the EME places the Eucharist in the hollow of the person's hand or pushes the Host on the tongue so as to adhere. (*The thumb works best to do this.*)
- PRECIOUS BLOOD EME: The EME similarly addresses the communicant, saying, **"The Blood of Christ"**. After the "Amen", the EME hands the Sacred Cup to the communicant and lets the person hold it and drink from it. *It is a good practice for the EME to continue to lightly hold the Sacred Cup if the communicant is a child or a handicapped person that is unable to firmly grasp the Sacred Cup.*

When the Sacred Cup is handed back to you, the EME wipes the lip of the Sacred Cup with the purificator. The EME then turns the Sacred Cup a quarter turn before repeating the process. Take the time to find an unused portion of the purificator between each serving.

As a matter of practice:

- When distributing the Body and Precious Blood, the only words spoken are "The Blood of Christ" and "The Body of Christ". Never add the name of the recipient and never ask anyone to consume all of the remaining Precious Blood to "finish it off".
- If the EME determines that a person is seeking a blessing, it is appropriate that you respond by saying, "May God bless you", or if you prefer, make a cross in front of their forehead. (*as done on Ash Wednesday*). Do not use the Host nor touch their forehead while giving this blessing. ~OR~ place your hand over their shoulder as you say "May God bless you". Note: *We are not actually blessing the person, which requires the sacrament of Holy Orders; rather, we are simply asking the Lord to bestow his blessing upon them.*
- **If you run out of Hosts** and you are not done serving at your station, hopefully another EME who has completed their primary station has arrived to assist or replace you. If not, return to the altar and retrieve a previously distributed ciborium with remaining Hosts; leaving your empty ciborium.
- Do not approach the Priest or Deacon while they are serving to retrieve Hosts.
- Do not transfer Hosts from one ciborium to another as they may accidentally drop.

Upon Completion at Primary Station:

Ciborium Ministers

- When you are finished serving at your station, look around to the other stations either on your side (East or West) or to rear of church and fill in where needed. As mentioned above if you have completed serving positions **4, 6** (West) or **5, 7** (East), and if needed, move to SECONDARY positions of **2 & 3**; However, the front of the church should only have a total of four stations at any one time; Priest, Deacon or Lead EME, #2, #3.
- When returning your ciborium to the altar, you may assist others by taking their ciborium up as well. Do not stack as Hosts may stick to the bottom of the upper ciborium and drop. However, if you are handed other ciboria to take and place on the altar, you can place your finger between them during transit. Once at the altar place each ciborium separately. Use the **side stairs** to return the ciborium to the altar. **Do not hand the ciborium to an altar server.**

Sacred Cup Ministers

- When you are finished at your station and have remaining Precious Blood. If 6C & 7C, stay in your position to serve until all remaining parishioners coming down center aisle have receive their Host. You can advance to replace 2C and 1C if they have run out. Other walk with Sacred Cup (covered with purificator) to rear of church; walking slowing by handicapped parishioners or those standing in vestibule or narthex making a gesture to see if they may wish to receive. Return to sacristy (*see below Returning Vessels*)

Returning Vessels

- When returning your vessels to the sacristy, enter the sacristy through the NARTHEX DOOR:
CIBORIUM MINISTERS:
 - If your ciborium is EMPTY and you are conveniently located in the rear of the church, return the empty ciborium to the sacristy; placing it to the right side of the sink ~OR~ return the EMPTY ciborium to the altar if you are located down front; use your judgment.
 - If your ciborium contains Hosts return to the altar using the closest side stairs. Place it on the altar or hand it to the Priest/Deacon if they reach out for it.
- SACRED CUP (SC) MINISTERS:**
 - Return to the sacristy:
 - Drop off the EMPTY Sacred Cup by placing it to the right of the sink. Place purificator in the designated container.

As a Sacred Cup minister you not only offer the Precious Blood of our Lord but you also take on the **responsibility of consuming the remainder of the Precious Blood when in the Sacristy.** This is an HONOR and should be treated as such. If you feel you cannot consume the remainder please ask your fellow EMEs or the sacristan to assist. If, under special circumstances, you cannot consume the remainder of the Precious Blood and you are alone in this task, cover the Sacred Cup with the purificator, briefly leave it on the counter in the Sacristy and actively seek out the Sacristan or another EME to help consume the remainder.

- If able, return to your seat to finish the Mass and receive the final blessing.

Returning Your Cross

REMEMBER: After Mass **return your cross to the sacristy**; hanging it on the designated hook. *You may also dispose of your sanitizing wipe package. Do not leave it in the pew.*

WHAT IF...

What if the Host or particle of the Host is dropped either by the EME or parishioner?

A few scenarios can take place.

- If the PARISHIONER DROPS THE HOST, and is able to pick it up, the parishioner can consume the Host. If the parishioner cannot pick it up, the EME should pick it up and place it under the ciborium until you have completed serving then casually consume. Proceed to give the parishioner another Host.
- If you as an EME cause the Host or a particle of the Host to fall, pick it up and place it under the ciborium until you have completed serving and then casually consume it.
- If the Host drops after being placed in a parishioner's mouth and they are unable to pick it up, it is acceptable to hand motion to the parishioner to stop, then pick it up and place it under the ciborium. Once you have returned the ciborium to the altar (or sacristy, if empty), take the fallen Host to the sacristy and contact the sacristan. *Do not consume this Host.*

What if the Precious Blood drops or spills from the Sacred Cup?

A few scenarios can take place.

- If it is a FEW DROPS which land on the floor, step in front of the area where the Precious Blood was spilled until finished serving. After serving wipe the spill with the purificator and proceed to the sacristy where the Sacristan will further assist you.
- If a LARGE QUANTITY of Precious Blood spills on the floor, ask the parishioners to step back. Retrieve the towel located under the Credence Table on the sanctuary. By this time the ushers and sacristan should arrive to assist.
- If the Precious Blood SPILLS ON CLOTHING; once home soak the clothing in a bucket of water *without soap*. Then pour the water into the ground.

What should I do if the communicant wants to "dip" the Host in the Sacred Cup?

This is called self-intinction. Although this is not an accepted practice in the Catholic Church, we, as EMEs, cannot discourage the communicant from doing this; often it is cultural. To ensure that drops of the Precious Blood are not spilled during intinction, attempt to place your purificator under the Host as the person brings it out of the Sacred Cup to their mouth. *It is SJE's intention to discourage this practice at our parish through announcements made prior to Mass and encourage receiving the Host and Precious Blood separately without dipping the Host in the Sacred Cup.*

During Mass what do we do if a communicant comes to us with an open pyx indicating their desire to place Hosts in their pyx?

If this person is someone whom you know, or someone whom you recognize, place the Host(s) in the Pyx. When the opportunity arises encourage them to sign the serving log located in the sacristy. If it is someone with whom you feel uncomfortable, do not place a Host in the Pyx and ask them to see you after Mass. *(you can whisper in this instance)*. See the sacristan for assistance.

What should I do if a communicant walks away without consuming the Host?

You cannot leave your position nor should you do anything to cause attention to the situation. Of course, you can watch the communicant without being distracted from giving Communion to the other parishioners. The ushers are trained to be vigilant to watch for this type of scenario and should approach the person in question. Desecration of the Host is our concern.

EME Scheduling

Expectations/Commitment

We ask that you commit to a Mass of your choice and respond to the Team Captains request with your availability for scheduling purposes; usually every quarter. Due to the diverse layout of our church a regular schedule is required by all Masses to ensure proper coverage. All communication will be through the Team Captains of each Mass.

- Each Mass has Team Captains or Co-Captains who created and facilitates a workable EME schedule based on the needs of that particular Mass and time of the year; usually done 3 months at a time.
- **As an EME your level of participation is based on YOUR preference and availability.** You are not required to commit to every weekend, just those when you can commit.
- The suggested procedure is that the Team Captain email/contact their EMEs **three weeks prior to the next quarter**; allowing you a week to respond with your preferences and availability before the Captains follow up and formulate the schedule.
- **You present your availability dates.** It is not a weekly commitment. However, serving at least once per month helps you feel more comfortable. The more often you serve the more natural serving God becomes.
- As a courtesy please **inform your Team Captain of any serving limitations** you may have; medical or personal. (*i.e. not able to administer the Sacred Cup*) This will help facilitate a workable Mass schedule.
- Each Mass has an individual **substitute** (aka "sub") **policy** which works best for that Mass. More than likely, if you are on that Mass's weekly schedule and a conflict arises in your availability you are asked to find a substitute to fill in for you.
- If you are not on the schedule for the Mass you are attending, please check in with the Lead EME in the sacristy to alert them of your willingness to serve.
- The following are NONSCHEDULED SPECIAL MASSES: HOLY DAYS of OBLIGATION, NATIVITY of our LORD, ASH WEDNESDAY, EASTER TRIDUUM (Holy Thursday, Good Friday and Holy Saturday) as well as Palm Sunday and Easter overflow Masses held in the PLC.
 - **General Sign-Up sheets** are posted in the sacristy (back left bulletin board) for these special Masses and those who wish to serve are asked to sign up in advance. An email is sent to advise when these sheets are posted.

This *Call to Serve* is truly "Christ's real presence among us"
serving the Lord through the distribution of the Holy Eucharist.



Lead Extraordinary Ministers of the Holy Eucharist (EME) Duties

What is a Lead EME?

A Lead EME is position of leadership. The position is held either by an experienced EME or Liturgy Captain who assists at a specific Mass. The Lead EME ensures that all EME stations are covered properly and also assists the priest with distribution of the Holy Eucharist in the absence of a deacon.

Prior to Liturgy

- Arrive at least 40 minutes prior to Mass time.
- Identify the Mass Celebrant and confirm with the sacristan whether other clergy will be present to assist the celebrant with the distribution of the Holy Eucharist.
- Make certain all scheduled EMEs sign their names on the sign-in sheet & that they understand exactly where their position is located. Guide/inform the EMEs on any SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS or duties for their position, when necessary, (i.e. serving handicapped, if Sacred Cup – take note of your Host partner, where to serve after completion of primary position, speak to ushers if serving in wings or rear of church position 12.
- Consult with the sacristan to ensure that the number of vessels she prepares coincides with the number of clergy complimented by the EMEs listed on the sign-in sheet. *(It is the sacristan's responsibility to ensure the proper number of ciboria are available both in the tabernacle and for the offertory gifts, as well as, the precious blood and cups to serve. In order for the sacristan to plan well before the Mass begins it is important to insist that your scheduled EMEs arrive at least 25 minutes early)*
- At Masses with a large congregation confer with the Head usher if you plan on more than 1 primary EME serving in the wings or if you are offering position 12 (vestibule) and 13 (choir). The usher can then direct the parishioners to these EME stations.

On Sanctuary

(In the absence of a deacon or co-celebrant, Lead EME assumes those tasks described below)

- Line up as first in line on the East side of the church at the St. Vincent DePaul box. **When the priest raises his Chalice**, proceed up stairs into the sanctuary, **directly** to the priest to receive the Body & Precious Blood.
- The Celebrant will serve you the Host then the Precious Blood. Take the Chalice and purificator at the same time then serve yourself the Precious Blood. He will leave the Chalice and purificator with you.
- Starting on the EAST side, follow the Celebrant as he serves the Host. You are to distribute the Precious Blood to the EMEs & Altar Servers who wish to receive (East to West).
- When you reach the last EME in line, if it is the Celebrant's Chalice, wipe the rim then return the Chalice to the altar; placing the Pal on top, not the purificator. *If, for some reason, you are not using the Celebrant's Chalice, hand the cup to the last EME along with the purificator.*
- The Celebrant/Deacon may hand you a Ciborium for EME distribution; follow his direction. **DO NOT REMOVE VESSELS FROM THE ALTAR** unless directed to do so by the Celebrant.



EME MASS QUICK REFERENCE

- ARRIVE NLT 25 minutes PRIOR to Mass
- SIGN IN: Take note of your exact position
Quietly speak with Lead EME for SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS
 - Do I have Handicapped duty?
 - If Sacred Cup EME...who is the Host EME whom I will follow?
 - After done serving Primary position, learn of your Secondary position.
 - If serving in "wings" – advise usher, where you will be standing
- Adorn your cross, Pray silently, Take Sanitizing Wipe.
- After SIGN OF THE PEACE - **LINE UP** along East or West wall @ **ST. VINCENT DEPAUL DONATION BOX** (#4 on West, Lead or #5 on East) Sacred Cups last.
- When **PRIEST RAISES CHALICE** - process up to sanctuary
- Once ALL EMEs HAVE RECEIVED THEIR VESSELS on the Sanctuary proceed down the stairs.
DO NOT WAIT FOR THE PRIEST.
- Return Cross to sacristy.

Rite of Commissioning:

Extraordinary Ministers of the Holy Eucharist should be commissioned regularly. At St. John the Evangelist Catholic Church it is our practice to perform this blessing **annually** during first quarter of the calendar year during one specially designated weekend. This is done by our Pastor or his designated priest through the *Order for the Commissioning of Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion*. (Book of Blessings, Chapter 63).

- Arrive early at a Mass of your choosing.
- SIGN in the COMMISSIONING LOG which will be located at a table in the Narthex.
- Please PRINT your formal name.
- Check the box as to whether this is your NEW COMMISSIONING or a RE-COMMISSIONING.
- If this is a NEW COMMISSIONING, a CERTIFICATE, signed by our pastor, will be provided for pick up in the Sacristy, at a later date.
- Sit in the front set of pews (near organ) along with a few of your family members, if space allows.
- After the Homily, the Celebrant will ask for those to be Commissioned to stand for this special Blessing.

Resource List:

Archdiocese of Atlanta, Georgia - EMHC Manual

Archdiocese of Laredo, Texas

Archdiocese of Santa Fe, New Mexico

Archdiocese of Venice, Florida

Book of Blessings

United States Conference of Catholic Bishops
<http://www.usccb.org/>

Very Reverend John J. Ludden, Pastor, Saint John the Evangelist Catholic Church,
Naples, Florida

GLOSSARY

Ablution

A cleansing of the hands which purifies and thus prepares the priest for entering the presence of God.

Altar

A table on which the sacrifice of the Mass is offered. It is the center of importance in the place where the Mass is celebrated.

Ambo

Elevated place where the Liturgy of the Word or sacred scripture is proclaimed during Mass; may also be used for the homily.

Black Mass

Ritual characterized by the inversion of the [Traditional Latin Mass celebrated by the Roman Catholic Church](#). The ritual denounces Jesus Christ through the destruction of the Eucharist.

Blessed Sacrament

The consecrated Hosts and Precious Blood, in which Catholics truly believe **is** the risen Christ.

Bread and Wine: The elements used in the celebration of the Eucharist (unleavened bread and natural pure wine) Note: After the Eucharistic Prayer the bread and wine is referred to as the consecrated Body and Blood of Christ.

Burse

I. Square cloth envelope of the liturgical color of the day, in which the *corporal* may be placed when not in use.

II. A small pouch; usually with a cord which goes around the neck used for carrying a *pyx* enroute to the homebound, hospital or care facilities.

Chalice

Sacred vessel used by priest in which wine, after Consecration, becomes the Precious Blood.

Ciborium (single) Ciboria (plural)

A covered container, commonly gold or gold-plated, used to hold the consecrated Hosts for serving the faithful.

Corporal

A square white linen cloth on which the Host and Chalice are placed during Mass. It is also used under the monstrance at Benediction or under the Blessed Sacrament at any time. When serving the faithful, this towel can be utilized to wipe up spilled wine from the Sacred Cup.

Credence Table

A small table on the left side of the altar. On it are usually placed the cruets, basin, and finger towel. The chalice, paten, corporal, and pall used in the Mass may also be placed there until the Offertory of the Mass.

Cruet

Glass vessels which contain the water and wine used during the consecration of the Mass. They are presented as offerings of the faithful at the Offertory. The cruets are also used for a priest's ablution after the Offertory and the ablution of the chalice after Communion.

Extraordinary Minister of the Eucharist

An "extra", but ordinary lay person, who has been commissioned to assist the priest, the ordinary **ordained** minister, in the distribution of the Holy Eucharist to all the faithful where a shortage of ordained clergy makes it impossible for them alone to distribute the faithful in a reasonable way. Thus it is a **privilege** that we are among **the chosen**.

Eucharistic Prayer

The prayer of thanksgiving and sanctification. It is the center and high point of the celebration. During the Eucharistic Prayer, the Church believes that the bread and wine become the Body and Blood of Jesus Christ.

Holy Communion

After saying a preparatory prayer, the celebrant (or other designated ministers) serves Communion (the consecrated bread and wine) to himself, the Priest, and the other ministers at the altar, and then Communion is distributed to the congregation.

Host

A small wafer of unleavened bread, which is consecrated during the Mass so as to become the Body of Christ.

Self Intinction

The Eucharistic practice of partly dipping the consecrated bread, or *Host*, into the consecrated wine before consumption by the communicant. This is not an accepted practice in the Roman Catholic Church. However, we cannot discourage the communicant from doing this.

Lay Ministers

These are ministries within the church that are carried out by laypersons; including altar servers, extraordinary ministers of the Eucharist and lectors.

Liturgical Colors

Colors used for vestments and altar coverings to denote special times in the liturgical year. **Green** is used in ordinary time, **red** denotes solemn feast days, **purple** denotes penitential times and **white** is used for joyful occasions including Nativity of our Lord, Easter and some saints' feast days.

Liturgy of the Eucharist

The section of the celebration when the gifts of bread and wine are prepared and the Eucharistic Prayer is proclaimed by the celebrant, which becomes the Blessed Sacrament.

Luna

Round glass case within which is kept a large consecrated Host so that it may be inserted into the center of the monstrance.

Monstrance

Sacred Vessel which holds the *luna* with a consecrated Host for adoration and benediction.

Ordinary Minister of Holy Communion

A bishop, priest or deacon who by virtue of their office ordinarily distributes Holy Communion.

Pall

Square of stiff material covered by linen which is used to cover the chalice and paten during Mass to prevent dust from settling in or anything from falling into it.

Paten

A small metal plate on which *Hosts* are consecrated during Mass. Can also be used as a ciborium, if needed.

Precious Blood

The true Presence of Jesus Christ under the appearance of wine.

Purificator

A small piece of white linen, marked with a cross in the center, used by the priest in the celebration of Mass. It is folded in three layers and used by the priest to purify his fingers, the chalice and paten after Holy Communion.

Pyx (singular) Pyxides (plural)

A small round metal case (usually gold-plated) used to store and carry consecrated Host(s) outside of the church to bring the Holy Eucharist to those unable to attend Mass. It is usually carried in the *burse*.

Sacred Cup

A vessel which is used to hold the *Precious Blood of Jesus*. Sacred vessels must be made out of certain materials, and are to be blessed according to the rites of the Church.

Sacristy

A room attached to a church, where the clergy vest for ecclesiastical functions. The sacristy affords storage for sacred vessels, vestments, and other articles and ministries needed for the Liturgy.

Sanctuary

The elevated portion of the church where the clergy and other ministers perform their proper functions in the worship of God. The sanctuary symbolizes heaven. The altar and ambo are placed within the sanctuary.

Sanctuary Lamp

A fixture containing a candle or an oil lamp, usually suspended by a chain or affixed to the wall. It is located near the tabernacle. When lit, it indicates the presence of the Blessed Sacrament in the tabernacle.

Tabernacle

A liturgical furnishing used to house the Eucharist outside of Mass. This provides a location where the Eucharist can be kept for the adoration of the faithful and for later use (e.g., distribution to the sick). "The tabernacle in which the Eucharist is regularly reserved is to be immovable, made of solid or opaque material, and locked so that the danger of profanation may be entirely avoided".

Washing of Hands

An expression of the desire for inward purification. The celebrant washes his hands in symbolic cleansing to prepare himself just as the gifts have been prepared as an offering to the Lord.

United States Conference of Catholic Bishops

<http://www.usccb.org/>

A reliable pastoral resource used most often for all Catholic matters.

Viaticum:

The real "Last Rites" are simply and powerfully the administration of Holy Communion with the special prayers for the dying. This Communion is called Viaticum, which means "nourishment for the journey." It is a powerful prayer and brings great peace and consolation to someone facing her/his final travel into the embrace of God's love. Most often priests administer Viaticum, however in some circumstances the Extraordinary Minister of the Eucharist may be called upon to give the final Holy Eucharist to a dying patient.