

SAINT MARY CHURCH

Guidelines for Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion

Please wear business attire when acting as a EMHC both at Mass and when bring the Holy Eucharist to the sick.

At Mass:

- ▶ New directives were issued several years ago regarding when EMHC approach the altar at Mass.
 - These new directives were never put into practice at St. Mary.
- ▶ The EMHC should approach the altar *after* the priest receives the Precious Blood rather than at the Lamb of God.
- ▶ The EMHC should receive the ciborium from the priest and return it to the priest after Communion. The priest will repose it in the Tabernacle.
 - The exception to this would be to assist an infirm priest.
- ▶ It is the custom for anyone handling the Blessed Sacrament to purify their fingers after Communion using a bowl of water. This is to remove any particles of the Blessed Sacrament which may be left on the fingers.
 - In the future a small covered bowl and finger towel will be provided at the credence table for this purpose.
 - After handing the ciborium to the celebrant, the EMHC should go to the credence table, purify their fingers and then return to their seat.
- ▶ Following Mass, please prepare for the next Mass (if there is one soon to follow) rather than empty the cruets and put everything away.
- ▶ Fr. La Pastina will always prepare his own chalice and put it away following Mass.

For visits to homes or hospitals:

- ▶ While carrying the Blessed Sacrament always be aware of what you are doing and Who you are carrying.
 - Avoid unnecessary conversation; do not play the radio in the car; do not make any stops along the way.
- ▶ The Blessed Sacrament should be taken from the tabernacle *following* Mass, not before it.
- ▶ Occasionally ask the person you are visiting if they would like to see a priest for Confession.
 - If they would, please let us know.
- ▶ Use the rite for Holy Communion as found in the proper liturgical books.
 - If you do not have the rite, please let us know and we can give you a copy.
- ▶ If any of the Blessed Sacrament remains following your visits, you should either return it to the tabernacle or consume it.
 - Your pyx should be purified on a regular basis.