



Rocky Mountain House



Evergreen

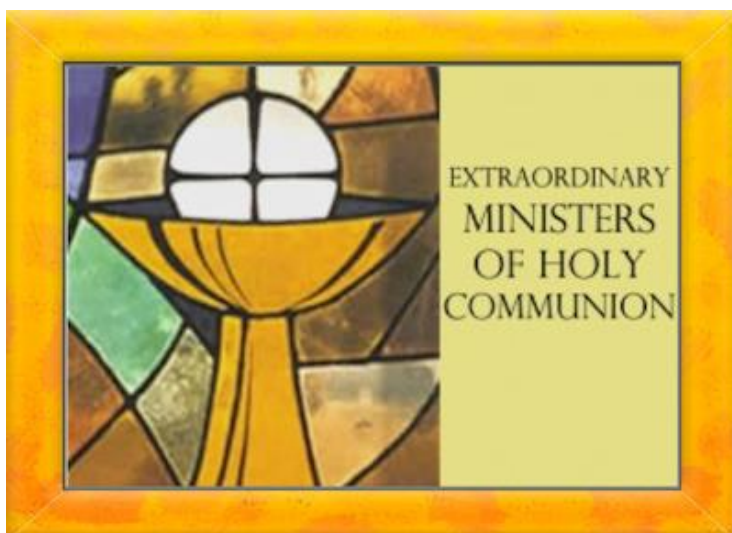


Caroline

ST. MATTHEW PARISH IN ROCKY MOUNTAIN HOUSE AND MISSIONS IN EVERGREEN AND CAROLINE

Rocky Mountain House - St. Matthew Parish * Evergreen - Jesuit Martyrs Parish * Caroline - St. Joseph the Workman Parish
Administration Office: 5208 - 53 Avenue * Rocky Mountain House, Alberta ♦ Mailing Address: Box 151 * Rocky Mountain House, AB * T4T 1A2
Tel. 403-845-3457 * Fax 403-845-7177 * Website: www.smprmh.ca * E-mail to office: office@smprmh.ca * E-mail to pastor: pastor@smprmh.ca

The Ministry of Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion



Christ's faithful are to hold the blessed Eucharist in the highest honour. They should take an active part in the celebration of the most august Sacrifice; they should receive the sacrament with great devotion and frequency, and should reverence It with the greatest adoration. (Canon 898)

In this ministry, you must be examples of Christian living in faith and conduct; you must strive to grow in holiness through this sacrament of unity and love. Those called must be Catholics in good standing who are themselves able to receive the Eucharist.

TO BE COMMISSIONED BY THE PARISH AS AN EXTRAORDINARY MINISTER OF HOLY COMMUNION IS AN HONOUR AND A PRIVILEGE THAT WE HUMBLY ACCEPT.



Called to *Serve*
Eucharistic Ministers



Thank you very much for accepting the call to this ministry.

Thank you for participating in the ministry of Eucharistic Minister at our parish. This ministry is vital to the worshipping community, as you assist in bringing Christ in the Blessed Sacrament to those around you. The communion rite is at the heart and center of the entire Eucharistic liturgy. Serving as an extraordinary minister of the Eucharist is an honor and a privilege. As commissioned Christians, we are called to act as an example to the faithful through piety and reverence of the sacrament. To promote dignity and lead each communicant into the prayer that is the action of sharing communion, ministers should possess sufficient maturity not to call attention to them or to distract from the sanctity of the celebration. By baptism you are called to share Christ with others at home, at work, in your neighborhood and in every place you are able. Chosen by the Christian community to assist in the distribution of the Eucharist in the church's Worship, you will strengthen the faith of believers and enable them to share the presence of Christ more effectively wherever they live, work and play.

As Catholics, we fully participate in the celebration of the Eucharist when we receive Holy Communion. As an extraordinary minister in the distribution of the Eucharist, we must continue to offer fitting lives as we perform a great ministry in the Church. **A person who is conscious of grave sin is not to receive communion.** Therefore, we must take it upon ourselves to regularly take care of our spiritual health by participating in the Sacrament of Reconciliation and other opportunities of prayer. We are living examples of Christ in the Eucharist, may we continue to welcome him into our lives! **In this ministry, you must be examples of Christian living in faith and conduct; you must strive to grow in holiness through this sacrament of unity and love.**

Who is an Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion at Mass?

It is easier to answer that question first by stating who are the *ordinary* ministers of communion. Bishops, priests and deacons, by virtue of their ordination, are the ordinary or usual ministers of communion at Mass. When the size of the assembly or the incapacity of the ordinary ministers requires it, the priest may call upon *extraordinary* ("out of the ordinary") ministers to assist him in the distribution of the Holy Communion.

What is the role of Extraordinary Ministers at Mass?

They approach the altar as the priest is receiving communion. They themselves receive communion from either the priest or deacon. Then they assist in the distribution of the Body and Blood to the assembly.

- **If you are not able to come to the church on your assigned date or time, it is your responsibility to get a replacement.**
- **On a day you are scheduled to serve as a Eucharistic Minister, please arrive 10 minutes before Mass begins.**

Communion

- **During the “Lamb of God,”** the Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion should approach the sanctuary area and ***take their places before the first step*** (not in front of the pews). They can sanitize their hands at this time.
- After Priest received the Body and the Blood of Christ **all Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion receive the Body and Blood of Christ from the Priest.** Also all the Eucharistic Ministers receive the chalices with the Blood of Christ and the Ciboria with the Body of Christ from the Priest or Deacon (for the distribution to the congregation).
- Priest will serve Communion (Body and Blood) to Altar Servers at the altar and all the Eucharistic Ministers standing at the altar or before the first step of the sanctuary. The Priest and Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion will then come down to serve Communion to the congregation.
- The proper and only permissible form for distributing Holy Communion is to offer the consecrated bread by saying, "The Body of Christ" and to offer the consecrated wine by saying, "The Blood of Christ." **No other words or names should be added;** and the formula should not be edited in any way. (Cf. GIRM, 161; 284-287).
- If a Host falls, It is not given to the communicant, but is reverently consumed by the Extraordinary Minister or placed on the paten or corporal.
- If the Precious Blood is spilled, the area should immediately be covered. It should then be blotted and washed after Mass with water and a purificator. The purificator should be rinsed and wrung out in the sacarium. If there is no sacarium, it should be rinsed in another vessel and the water poured into the ground in a secluded spot.

Cleaning and Clearing of the Altar after Communion

- Once everyone has received Communion, all Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion leave the Ciboria with the remaining Hosts and Chalices with the remaining Blood of Christ on the altar. Priest alone will do the cleaning and washing.
- The first part of the clearing is to transfer the remaining Body of Christ (Hosts) to the Ciborium, which in turn will be placed in the Tabernacle. The Priest will do it.
- The second part of the clearing is to consume all the remaining Blood of Christ from the Chalices. **In ordinary situation, the Priest will consume the Blood of Christ.** But **on special occasion** he might ask one of the Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion to help him (when there is too much of Blood of Christ left in the Chalice(s) to be consumed).

Visiting the sick or shut-ins

The Extraordinary Minister may be mandated to bring Holy Communion to the sick in hospitals, nursing or private homes.

- Whenever possible at Sunday or weekday Masses, the pyxes should be filled at Mass and the Communion visits made following the Mass so that the congregation and the sick individuals may be more conscious of their unity in the Holy Eucharist. Other arrangements may be made at the priest's discretion.
- The Hosts in pyx and burse (pouch) should be carried with great reverence, usually around the neck.
- Communion is taken directly to the sick and not carried until later in the day.
- In the case when a communicant has received the Host into the mouth and then, for some reason, rejects it, the Host is to be put into a small receptacle of water, and put into the tabernacle or other secure place. When It has dissolved (i.e. no longer has the species of bread and is no longer the Body of Christ) the priest will pour the water into the sacarium.

Moving in the sanctuary of the church (outside of the Mass and during the Mass) ♦ Can Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion refuse to give Communion? We don't judge, but follow the teachings of the Church and the instructions of the Church. ♦ No Communion for non-Catholics!

Prayers for Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion

Almighty and everlasting God,
behold we approach the sacrament
of thy only-begotten Son, our Lord Jesus Christ.
As sick, we come to the Physician of life:
As unclean, to the Fountain of mercy:
As blind, to the Light of eternal splendor:
As needy, to the Lord of heaven and earth:
As naked, to the King of glory.



Thomas Aquinas

Heavenly Father, I thank you for calling me to serve You and Your people in this community as an extraordinary minister of the Eucharist. You know that I could never be worthy of such an exalted honor. Help me to be less unworthy by remaining free of sin. Let me nourish Your people with the witness of my life as I feed them with the Body of Christ. Grant Your strength and holiness to all Your Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion and make them worthy to bring Christ to others. Amen.

Blessed are you, God of all creation! I thank you for calling me to serve your holy people. May I see you in them. May they see you in me. Grant this through Christ our Lord. Amen

Prayer for Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion to the Sick and Homebound

My Lord and Sustainer of All Beings, I am in your Sacred Presence about to take the Bread of Life to those who are unable to attend the communal celebration of the Eucharist. It will be my honor to carry Christ to them. Bless my hands that they may be fitting instruments of this Holy Visitation. Bless my heart, that I may truly carry the Bread of Life to those whose spirits are in need. May my attitude, my reverence, and my concern for both the spiritual and material needs of those whom I shall visit, be that of Your divine heart. I ask this in the name of our Lord, Jesus Christ, whose Body and Blood I shall carry; He who lives with You and the Holy Spirit forever and ever. Amen.