

Home Eucharistic Minister Instructions

The Eucharist constitutes the very life of the Church, for the Lord said, "I am the bread of life. No one who comes to me shall ever be hungry; no one who believes in me shall ever thirst." Home Eucharistic Ministers are Extraordinary Ministers of the Eucharist, whose responsibility is also to homebound parishioners and those in hospitals and nursing centers as well.

1. Those serving in this ministry are designated only for service at Assumption Parish, unless permission is given.
2. Your respect for the Ministry should be reflected in your appearance and attire; appropriate attire includes being properly groomed and wearing a suit & tie or clean, nicely creased trousers with shirt & tie or nice sweater; pants suit or skirt or slacks with blouse/sweater. Please note: no shorts at any time! Jewelry or clothing which would be distracting should not be worn.
3. On the day you are assigned to serve as an Extraordinary Minister of the Eucharist, it is appropriate and a good practice, to develop the habit of taking time to prepare for your service with quiet prayer and if possible, a reflective reading of Scripture.
4. Your hands should be clean, with neatly trimmed and clean nails. It is good practice to wash your hands with soap and water before the liturgy.
5. The expectation is that you will bring Eucharist to the temporarily homebound person(s) on your way home after you have attended Sunday Mass or week day Masses.
6. When carrying the Blessed Sacrament, be careful to place it in a safe spot. You may place the pyx in a small cloth bag and wear it around your neck or you may put it in your pocket, or pocketbook. If you do that, you should be careful to place it alone, rather than in a cluttered area. Do not leave it unattended. You should go directly after Mass to the person (s) to whom you will be bringing communion and not let other activities distract you from your ministry, e.g., go shopping.
7. You do want to remember that you are carrying the Blessed Sacrament and attending to the business of the Lord so if you meet someone, you do want to

smile and greet your neighbor, but you want to be careful about stopping and engaging in a long conversation. Use your good judgment!

8. When you are asked to bring Eucharist to the homebound, you use a book to guide you through the greeting, penitential rite, Scripture readings, intercessory prayers, the Lord's Prayer, reception of Communion, a prayer after Communion, and a blessing.