**Extraordinary Minister of Communion**

**Definition of Terms**

ACOLYTE—an instituted ministry usually reserved solely for candidates for the sacrament of Holy Orders.

ALB—the long white liturgical garment worn over street clothing common to all the baptized.

BOOK OF THE GOSPELS—a separate book from the Lectionary that contains the Gospel readings used at Mass.

BURSE—a pouch with a cord to be worn around the neck that holds the pyx of consecrated hosts when traveling to distribute Communion to the homebound or those in hospitals or nursing homes.

CELIAC SPRUE—a disease where a person, to varying degrees, cannot ingest gluten found in wheat flour without becoming ill.

CHALICE—also referred to as the cup, is used to hold the consecrated wine of the Eucharist (the Blood of Christ).

CIBORIUM—a metal container (usually having a cover) used to hold the consecrated hosts. It has a variety of forms from a bowl shape to a goblet-like appearance similar to the chalice. (*plural*—ciboria)

COMMISSION—the public act of installing and blessing a member of the community for a particular ministry of service.

COMMUNICANT—the person who receives Holy Communion under the form of bread and wine from the priest, deacon or extraordinary minister.

CORPORAL—a square, white linen cloth unfolded on the altar on which the paten, ciboria and chalice(s) are placed during Mass. Also used in front of the tabernacle and under the monstrance during Eucharistic Exposition.

CREDENCE TABLE--A small table or shelf in the wall at one side of the altar. On it are usually placed the cruets, basin, and finger towel. The chalice (or cups), corporals, purificators, and extra ciboria for the Mass may also be placed there.

CRUET--One of two small bottles or vessels to contain the water and wine used at Mass.

DEPUTED—assigning a substitute to take the place of another

EUCHARIST—comes from a Greek word meaning “to give thanks”. Another name for the Mass or the consecrated bread and wine.

EXTRAORDINARY MINISTER OF COMMUNION—a non-ordained person who is commissioned to distribute Holy Communion for a single or multiple occasions.

HOST—the round wafer that becomes the consecrated bread of the Eucharist (the Body of Christ).

INDULT—a special permission or concession granted by the Pope or diocesan bishop that allows the recipient to do something that Church guidelines do not permit.

INTINCTION--the practice of partly dipping the consecrated bread, or *host*, into the consecrated wine before consumption by the communicant. This is only to be done by the priest in exceptional circumstances and never done by the communicant.

LECTIONARY—a series of books containing the Scripture passages for the First Reading, Responsorial Psalm, and Second Reading (but not the Gospels) used at Mass.

LITURGY—official public worship of the Church, of which Eucharist is first and foremost.

LUNA—the round glass case in which a consecrated host is kept so that it can be placed into the monstrance for Eucharistic Exposition.

MONSTRANCE—a vessel used to display the consecrated host for Eucharistic Adoration.

NARTHEX--an entrance area or vestibule leading to the main body of a church.

ORDINARY MINISTER OF COMMUNION—those who have received the sacrament of Holy Orders (bishop, priest or deacon)

PASCHAL SACRIFICE—Christ offering himself on the cross for the salvation of the world. Based on our Jewish heritage, Christ, by sacrificing himself on the cross, becomes our “Passover” (Pasch) Lamb and frees us from the bondage of sin and death.

PATEN—a saucer like dish that holds the round wafer that becomes the consecrated bread of the Eucharist (the Body of Christ). May appear similar to bowl-like ciboria but not as deep.

PRESIDER—person appointed to lead communal worship in accordance with the laws of the Church. A bishop or priest is the presider of the Mass.

PURIFICATOR--a small piece of white linen, usually marked with a cross in the center, used to wipe the lip of the chalice or cups during the distribution of the Precious Blood.

PURIFICATION—the act of pouring water into the sacred vessels (paten, ciborium, chalice) to cleanse them of tiny particles of the host or remaining Precious Blood. That liquid is then consumed and a purificator used to wipe the vessels dry.

PYX--any metal box or vessel used to carry hosts on visitation to the homebound, hospitals, nursing homes or prisons.

ROMAN MISSAL—the liturgical book that contains all of the prayers used at Mass.

RUBRIC—the rules, guidelines, directions or suggestions given in liturgical books.

SACRARIUM—a special sink in the sacristy with pipes that drain directly into the ground

SACRISTAN—a person who handles the preparations of vessels, linens, books, and other liturgical items before Mass. He or she may oversee the attendance of all liturgical ministers scheduled and may also communicate any special notices or instructions to these ministers before Mass.

SACRISTY—a room attached to a church, usually near the altar, where the clergy and lay ministers vest for Mass and where all the liturgical vessels and other items are kept. The sacrarium is usually located there.

SPECIES—usually referring to consecrated host (Body of Christ) and the consecrated wine (Blood of Christ) given at Holy Communion.

TABERNACLE--A cupboard or boxlike receptacle, usually locked, for the exclusive reservation of the Blessed Sacrament. A lit sanctuary lamp is usually located nearby indicating that the Blessed Sacrament is reserved inside.