**Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion**

**Additional Resources**

**Primary Sources:**

* *Catechism of the Catholic Church, Second Edition*, USCC, Inc.-- the full, complete exposition of Catholic doctrine
* *Constitution on the Sacred Liturgy (Sacrosanctum Concilium),* Second Vatican Council—one of the constitutions of the Second Vatican Council whose principle aim was emphasizing the need for greater participation of the lay faithful in the liturgy.
* *General Instruction of the Roman Missal* (Third Typical Edition) 2002—detailed directives on how the Mass is to be celebrated
* *Instruction on the Eucharist (Redemptionis Sacrametum),* Congregation for Divine Worship and the Discipline of the Sacraments, 2004—document addressing certain matters to be observed or avoided regarding the Eucharist
* *Norms for the Distribution and Reception of Holy Communion Under Both Kinds in the Dioceses of the United States of America*, USCCB, 2002--describes the methods of Holy Communion under both kinds, and establishes norms for reverent and careful distribution.
* *Introduction to the Order of Mass, A Pastoral Resource of the Bishop’s Committee on the Liturgy,* United States Conference of Catholic Bishops--This pastoral introduction provides scriptural and historical context for the acts, objects, materials, symbols, rites, and prayers of the Mass-and in so doing helps all reach fuller and more active participation.
* *Pastoral Care of the Sick: Rites of Anointing and Viaticum*--contains the complete texts of the official rites for the infirmed of the Church, including Communion of the Sick, and Viaticum within and outside Mass
* *Holy Communion and Worship of the Eucharist Outside of Mass--*includes the Rite of Distributing Holy Communion outside Mass, Administration of Communion and Viaticum to the Sick by an Extraordinary Minister, and Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament
* *Book of Blessings--*this liturgical book includes blessings pertaining to persons, to objects, and to various occasions, as well as blessings and services connected with official parish events
* *Sunday Celebrations in the Absence of a Priest*--addresses the growing reality of declining number of priests and their availability to celebrate Sunday Mass by providing the appropriate ritual to be used in the celebrating community.
* *Wounded and Loved, Regathering the Scattered*—Bishop Bambera’s pastoral vision for the Church of Scranton that focuses on the faithful’s role as servant leaders

**Books & DVDs:**

* Riley, Kenneth A. and Paul Turner, *Guide of Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion.* Liturgy Training Publications, Chicago 2007—provides a basic theological and historical overview of this ministry, resources for formation and the deepening of ministerial spirituality, questions for discussion and reflection, and much more.
* Kwatera, Michael, *The Ministry of Communion.* Liturgical Press, Collegeville 2004--offers practical advice and vital theology for Eucharistic ministers. Updated with the latest liturgical laws and norms, and with an expanded section on leading Communion services.
* Gaillardetz, Richard, *Broken and Poured Out: A Spirituality for Eucharistic Ministers*. Ligouri Publications, Ligouri 2002-- discusses the communal aspects of liturgy, the real presence of Christ in the Eucharist, the idea of Eucharist as sacrifice, and the role of the Extraordinary Minister of Communion
* Foley, Edward, *From Age to Age.* Liturgical Press, Collegeville 2008—A historical survey that traces the development of Christian Eucharist from its Jewish roots to our own time. In addition to exploring the architecture, music, books, and vessels that contributed to each period's liturgical expressions, this edition introduces readers to the theology of each age as well as the historical and cultural contexts that shaped the Eucharist.
* Baker, J. Robert and Barbara Budde, compilers. *A Eucharistic Sourcebook*. Liturgy Training Publications, Chicago 1999-- gathers poetry, prose, hymns and prayers reflecting on what Eucharist means, what it means to do Eucharist and what it means to be Eucharist.
* Barron, Robert, *Eucharist* (DVD and Study Guide) and *Eucharist: Catholic Spirituality for Adults* (Book). Word on Fire Catholic Ministries, Skokie 2008--This fresh look at the Eucharist brings to light its reality as sacred meal, the sacrifice necessary for communion with God and the real presence of Christ.

**Pamphlets or Articles:**

* *“The Real Presence of Jesus Christ in the Sacrament of the Eucharist: Basic Questions and Answers.”* Published by the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, Secretariat for Doctrine and Pastoral Practices, June 15, 2001.
* *“Guidelines for the Reception of Communion.”* Published by the USCCB and available on their website (www.usccb.org)
* *Administration of Communion of the Sick.* New bilingual (English/Spanish) edition for use in the context of a liturgy of the word or a hospital. Published by the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops.

**Resources for Spiritual Development:** Extraordinary Ministers of Communion are encouraged to develop a habit of personal prayer and spiritual reading. Some suggestions are periodicals about liturgy or prayer, books about the Eucharist or the lives of the saints. Below are some other suggestions for personal prayer:

* The Liturgy of the Hours: the official prayer of the Church marking the different parts of the day, usually prayed by all clergy and religious communities throughout the world. Available in a 4 volume set or an abridged version called *Christian Prayer* or an even more abridged version called *Shorter Christian Prayer*.
  + USCCB article providing a brief overview of the Liturgy of the Hours can be found at <http://www.usccb.org/prayer-and-worship/liturgy-of-the-hours/>
  + For an explanation on the Liturgy of the Hours and Mundelein Psalter, visit <http://www.adoremus.org/0307LiturgyofHours.html>
* Annual/Monthly Resources for Reflections on the Sunday Readings: consider reading and reflecting on the Scripture passages for the upcoming Sunday Mass. You can use your bible or find the prescribed scripture readings for any Sunday or weekday at [www.usccb.org](http://www.usccb.org). These are resources that will help you “break open” the Scripture readings more:
  + *At Home with the Word*—published by Liturgy Training Publications ([www.ltp.org](http://www.ltp.org))
  + *Exploring the Sunday Readings*—by Alice Camille, published by Twenty-Third Publications ([www.exploringthesundayreadins.com](http://www.exploringthesundayreadins.com))
  + Living Liturgy—published Liturgical Press ([www.litpress.org](http://www.litpress.org))
* Prayers before the Blessed Sacrament: some parishes in our diocese have Eucharistic Adoration chapels or have periodic Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament where you can spend time in quiet prayer before Jesus in the Eucharist. You can also pray before the Blessed Sacrament reserved in the tabernacle before or after Mass. Here are some prayer resources for Eucharistic devotions:
  + A collection of Holy Hours for various intentions that contain prayers before the Blessed Sacrament can be found at [www.usccb.org/prayer-and-worship/prayers-and-devotions/eucharistic-devotion/index.cfm](http://www.usccb.org/prayer-and-worship/prayers-and-devotions/eucharistic-devotion/index.cfm)
  + *Prayers for an Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion* and *Prayers before the Blessed Sacrament*—published by Liturgy Training Publications ([www.ltp.org](http://www.ltp.org))

**Service**

As Extraordinary Ministers of Communion, we are called not only to offer the Body of Christ to others, but also to serve the Body of Christ outside of Mass. There are numerous service opportunities in your parish and in your community. Consider volunteering to feed the homeless in a soup kitchen or help with the collection and organization of a food bank. Preparing a meal at home for someone in need or alone, welcoming new neighbors with food, or having regular dinners with family are other ways we can feed and build up the Body of Christ.