Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion

(Training Manual)



St. Matthew Catholic Church

2800 Pine Tree Road Longview, TX 75604

Welcome to the Ministry of Extraordinary Minister of the Eucharist!

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."

"In every celebration of the Eucharist there should always be a sufficient number of ministers for the distribution of the Eucharist. Priority is always given to ordinary ministers (bishops, priests, deacons) and auxiliary ministers (instituted acolytes). When there are large numbers of the faithful present and there are insufficient ordinary and auxiliary members at hand, special or extraordinary ministers properly appointed beforehand should assist in the distribution of Communion." (HLS #29).

This booklet is designed to assist you in your participation in the Liturgical Ministry of Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion (more commonly known as Extraordinary Minister), here at St. Matthew Parish.

Your willingness to serve as an Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion, reflects not only response to your Baptismal call to serve the people of God, but a commitment to Christ as you share in the preaching, teaching and leading aspects of the church.

Your willingness to commit to a monthly schedule, to prepare properly for your service and to arrive on time dressed appropriately for Mass, further reflects that commitment. God bless your efforts!

Prayers for the Extraordinary Minister

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.

God of Love and Mercy.

With reverence and humility

I approach the Eucharist and this ministry.

Grant me the grace

To help others encounter you in this sacrament.

I ask through you son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

Canon Law

Can. 230 §3 - When the need of the Church warrants it and ministers are lacking, lay persons, even if they are not instituted lectors or acolytes, can also supply certain of their duties, namely, to exercise the ministry of the word, to preside over liturgical prayers, to confer baptism, and to distribute holy communion, according to the prescripts of the law.

Can. 910 §1 - The ordinary minister of Holy Communion is a bishop, presbyter, or deacon.

 $\S 2$ - The extraordinary minister of Holy Communion is an acolyte or another member of the Christian faithful designated according to the norm of can. 230 $\S 3$

Norms for the Distribution and Reception of Holy Communion Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion

28. When the size of the congregation or the incapacity of the bishop, priest, or deacon requires it, the celebrant may be assisted by other bishops, priests, or deacons. If such ordinary ministers of Holy Communion are not present, "the priest may call upon extraordinary ministers to assist him, i.e., formally instituted acolytes or even some of the faithful who have been commissioned according to the prescribed rite. In case of necessity, the priest may also commission suitable members of the faithful for the occasion." Extraordinary ministers of Holy Communion should receive sufficient spiritual, theological, and practical preparation to fulfill their role with knowledge and reverence. When recourse is had to Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion, especially in the distribution of Holy Communion under both kinds, their number should not be increased beyond what is required for the orderly and reverent distribution of the Body and Blood of the Lord. In all matters such Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion should follow the guidance of the diocesan bishop.

Holy Communion under both Kinds (Species)

From the first days of the Church's celebration of the Eucharist, Holy Communion consisted of the reception of both species in fulfillment of the Lord's command to "take and eat ... take and drink."

The practice of Holy Communion under both kinds at Mass continued until the late 11th century, when the custom of distributing the Eucharist to the faithful under the form of bread alone began to grow.

By the 12th century, theologians speak of Communion under one kind as a "custom" of the Church. The practice spread until the Council of Constance in 1415 degreed that Holy Communion under the form of bread alone would be distributed to the faithful.

In 1963, the Fathers of the Second Vatican Council authorized the extension of the faculty for Holy Communion under both kinds ... at the Bishop's discretion. (See Norms 18, 19 & 20)

Holy Communion has a more complete form as a sign when it is received under both kinds. For in this manner of reception a fuller sign of the Eucharistic banquet shines forth. Clearly, there are some pastoral circumstances that require Eucharistic sharing in one species. (Norms 15)

The Church has always taught the doctrine of concomitance, by which we know that under each species alone, the whole Christ is sacramentally present and we "receive all the fruit of Eucharistic grace." (GIRM 281 & CCC 1390)

Qualifications

The Lay Ministry Coordinator, after consultation with the pastor, issues an invitation in the name of the pastor to those parishioners that have deemed to be appropriate members of the ministry.

Those invited to serve in this ministry are designated only for service in this parish.

Extraordinary Ministers of the Eucharist should not take it upon themselves to bring Communion to a parent, family member, friend or neighbor, unless permission is given from the pastor or his designee, of the parish in which the person resides.

Invitation to serve as an Extraordinary Minister of the Eucharist is a reflection of the diversity of the parish. An invitation to join the ministry does not mean that one is "better or holier than another", nor is an invitation indicative of a reward of some sort.

Diocesan guidelines for invitation to service in this ministry clearly indicate that it is an invitation to serve ... not to create an elite in the church community.

To be an Extraordinary Minister of the Eucharist you must:

- be a fully initiated Catholic (have received the sacraments of Confirmation and First Holy Communion)
- be in good standing with the church
- be a registered member of Saint Matthew

- be of good moral standing and cultivate devotion to the Holy Eucharist and distinguish themselves by Christian life, faith and morals; striving to be worthy of this great office
- participate regularly in the sacramental life of the church and act as an example to the other faithful by piety and reverence for this Most Holy sacrament of the Altar
- be at least 16 years old
- be duly instructed
- act as an example to the other faithful by piety and reverence for this Most Holy Sacrament of the Altar.
- Extraordinary Ministers should live the Sacrament of Life
- Practice your Catholic faith through a prayerful relationship with God.
 Take advantage of the sacraments regularly.
- If you have not been to confession in a while, go before you start the
 process of becoming an Extraordinary Minister and continue to go
 regularly.

To accomplish so great a work, Christ is always present in his Church, especially in her liturgical celebrations.

- By his power Christ is present in the sacraments, so that when a man baptizes it is really Christ Himself who baptizes.
- Christ is present in the sacrifice of the Mass, not only in the person of the minister, ...
- but especially under the Eucharistic species.
- Christ is present in His word, since it is He who speaks when the Holy Scriptures are read in the Church. He is present.
- Lastly, when the Church prays and sings, for He promised: "Where two or three are gathered in my name, the I am in the midst of them."

Extraordinary Minister scheduling

- The Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion (EM) schedule will be updated every month. Schedules will be e-mailed, posted on the St. Matthew website, posted on the Parish App., and posted on the bulletin board in the church foyer.
- If you are scheduled to serve and cannot, YOU are responsible for arranging for a substitute and YOU must contact the Sacristan assigned to that Mass or the Ministry Head.

- The Extraordinary Minister of the Eucharist Contact List will be attached to the schedule.
- If you cannot serve on a regular basis and would like to be on the substitute roster, please let the EM Coordinator know. You must serve at least once a month to remain on the active roster.
- A Liturgical Minister may perform only one liturgical ministry at a time, thus if you are performing the function of Extraordinary Minister, you may not also perform the function of Lector or usher at the same Mass.
- Sacristan will notify the EM Coordinator of EMs who are habitually absent.
- The EM Coordinator will contact these ministers and either rearranges their schedule or remove them as appropriate.
- Sacristan and Clean-Up assignments are noted on the schedule.
- Holiday schedules for EMs will be by Volunteer Sign-up sheets posted on the board in the foyer. Examples are: The Triduum (Holy Thursday, Good Friday, Holy Saturday), Easter, Christmas, etc.
- Occasionally, a request for EMs at other services is received. An e-mail will be sent out asking for volunteers.

Attire

- "Bodily demeanor (gestures, clothing) ought to convey the respect, solemnity and joy of the moment when Christ becomes our guest."
 [Catechism of the Catholic Church (CCC) 1387b]
- In the dioceses of the U.S., acolytes, altar servers, readers and other lay ministers may wear the alb or other suitable vesture or other appropriate and dignified clothing. [GIRM 339]
- Your respect for the Ministry should be reflected in your appearance and attire.
- Appropriate attire includes being properly groomed, wearing a suit and tie, or clean, nicely creased trousers with a shirt and tie or nice sweater; pants suit or skirt or slacks with blouse/sweater.
- Please note: no sleeveless, shorts or any miniskirts (above the knee) at any time! Jewelry or clothing which would be distracting to the Assembly should not be worn. Wear your "Sunday Best".

Extraordinary Minister duties before Mass

- If you are scheduled, please arrive no later than ten (10) minutes before the mass starts and check in with the Sacristan in in the foyer.
- If you are not scheduled and you would like to make yourself available as a substitute, please notify the Sacristan. The Sacristan will issue a medallion to each EM as they check in.
- While gathering in the foyer before Mass, you should be "Ministers
 of Hospitality" to those who come to worship. Offer friendly
 greetings to people as they come in.
- To be part of the prayer with the Priest, Deacon, Lectors and altar servers, EMs should remain in the foyer after checking in. The Priest or Deacon may offer the prayer.
- Before prayer, the Sacristan will appoint substitutes to replace those ministers who have not checked in and give the medallion to the substitute.
- EMs who arrive late and have not been issued a medallion should not come to the altar.
- EMs may be seated anywhere with their family members, preferably close to the sanctuary.

Extraordinary Minister of the Eucharist Duties during Mass

The Mass will proceed through the readings, the homily, the Lord's Prayer and the Sign of Peace.

When the people finish saying: "Lord I am not worthy that you should enter under my roof...", the extraordinary ministers move to the front of the Sanctuary steps.

As the church has asked us to do, bow reverently before you receive the host and chalice. (*Ref. page 13*)

The Priest / Deacon will distribute the sacred vessels to the EM's. EM's should then move to their respective stations as indicated on Diagram (B).

The first 2 EM's designated to serve on the west side of the church should make the Eucharist and Blood available to the Choir members first, then take their place in front of the sanctuary.

After they have distributed communion to all who come in procession, they will dispense communion to any handicapped parishioner that cannot stand in line.

Distribution of the Body of Christ

The U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops has stated "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).

Reverently hold up the consecrated host between you and the receiver and looking the receiver in the eye, smile and say "The Body of Christ". Wait for the person receiving communion to say "Amen" and then place it in their hand or on their tongue, depending on which method they prefer.

If an adult or child comes up for communion and they have their hands crossed over their chest, you may hold a consecrated host in front of the person and say "Receive the Lord Jesus in your heart." Do not place your hand on the head of a child or an adult. This can be offensive to some people and it is a health concern.

EM's should not make the sign of the cross as part of the blessing, as they (EM's) are not ordained ministers.

If you run out of consecrated hosts, tell the person who is the next in line to wait a moment, then go to the next EM and share from him/ her.

If you have consecrated hosts left over after your line has run out, just stay in your place; or take the Eucharist to the handicapped

Distribution of the Precious Blood

Reverently hold up the chalice between you and the receiver and looking the receiver in the eye, smile and say "The Blood of Christ". Wait for the person receiving to say "Amen" and then hand them the chalice. Make sure the person has a good grip on the chalice before releasing it.

Be especially careful when the person hands the chalice back to you. The exchange should be firm but gentle; not forceful enough to cause a "splash" or a spill. Be even more vigilant when the communicant is a younger child.

When the communicant is a younger child, please hold the cup and help them to consume (sip) the blood a little.

After the person has handed the cup back to you, wipe the place on the cup (inside and outside of the rim) where they drank, and turn the chalice a quarter turn.

If you run out of Precious Blood, place your Purificator over the top of your cup.

After the entire congregation has received communion, turn toward the Altar. If there is precious Blood left in your cup, consume it at your station; do not walk and drink it, or drink it by the Altar.

Never wipe out the inside of your cup after serving and do not place the Purificator inside the cup. The cup must be rinsed by the priest or deacon.

Return the ciborium and the cup in the reverse direction you took before communion, please come around the ambo or away from the Altar.

Hand your ciborium / cup and Purificator to the Priest / Deacon separately.

Exception - "The Precious Blood may not be reserved, except for giving Communion to someone who is sick. Only sick people who are unable to receive Communion under the form of bread, may receive it under the form of wine alone at the discretion of the priest..." (Norms 54)

Communion by Intinction

Communicants must not be permitted to intinct the host himself/ herself in the chalice, nor to receive the intincted host in the hand. (Redemptionist Sacramentum 104)

Accidents

If you drop the Consecrated Host, our calm demeanor at this moment can calm and assure an anxious and embarrassed communicant. Pick up the Host and consume it yourself. If you feel uncomfortable consuming it, go back to the Altar and place it on a corporal; and come back to your spot and continue serving.

If you drop or spill the Precious Blood - DO NOT PANIC! Stop what you are doing. Your demeanor will reassure those communicants in line or, in particular, the person who may have caused the spill. Stop serving and place the pacificator over the spill and position yourself over the spill. After communion, notify the Deacon or Priest. They will clean up the spill.

Clean Up

After mass is complete, the Sacristan will clean up the cups used in the Mass and set up for the next Mass, if applicable.

Go to the credence table and take the tray containing the cups, wine decanter and finger bowl into the sacristy. *Please use the tray*.

If not using the tray, please only carry one vessel in each hand. Please do not bundle the vessels in your arms.

Children are not to carry sacred vessels. Only extraordinary Ministers should be handling the vessels.

You do not have to wash the Priest's Chalice / Paten or the Ciboria. Clean only the common cups. Rinse only the inside of the common cups. Do not immerse the cups or any sacred vessels in water. After rinsing these items, dry them gently with the towels hanging to the right of the sinks.

The used purificators, corporals and hand towels may be put in the basket to the left of the sinks. Please open them and place them in the basket.

Ash Wednesday

You may be asked to assist with the distribution of ashes on Ash Wednesday. If you are assigned to assist in one of the Ash Wednesday services, you should check in at the sacristy and determine from the Celebrant, where you will be located to distribute the ashes and what script you will use: "Turn away from sin and be faithful to the gospel", or "Remember, you are dust and to dust you will return." You mark each persons forehead with the sign of the cross with your thumb while saying one of the scripts. Be sure to wash your hands after administering the ashes.

Definitions

AMBO

Elevated pulpit from which the Epistles and Gospels were read and sermons preached in the early Church. Later two ambos were used, one for the Epistle reading, the other on the right side of the altar for the Gospel. Generally, now, one ambo or lectern suffices for the entire Liturgy of the Word. (Etym. Greek ambo, an elevation.)

BURSE

A stiff pocket about twelve inches square in which the folded corporal is carried to and from the altar. Part of a set of vestments, it is made of matching material. It is placed upon the chalice at the beginning and end of Mass and on the altar at Benediction.

The leather case containing the pyx, in which the Holy Eucharist is brought to the sick, is called a burse. It is also the name for an endowment or foundation fund especially for scholarships for candidates for the priesthood. (Etym. Latin bursa, purse or pouch.)

CHALICE

The cup-shaped vessel or goblet used at Mass to contain the Precious Blood. For centuries it was made of precious material; if it was not of gold, the interior of the cup was gold-plated. Since the Second Vatican Council, chalices may be of other materials. A chalice is consecrated with holy chrism by a bishop.

Re-gilding the inside does not destroy the consecration. Sometimes the word chalice designates its contents. (Etym. Latin calix, cup, goblet, drinking vessel, chalice.)

CIBORIUM

A covered container used to hold the consecrated small Hosts. It is similar to a chalice but covered and larger, used for small Communion hosts of the faithful. It is made of various precious metals, and the interior is commonly gold or gold plated. (Etym. Latin ciborium; from Greek kibrion, cup.)

CORPORAL

A square white linen cloth on which the Host and Chalice are placed during Mass. When not in use it may be kept in a burse. It is also used under the monstrance at Benediction or under the Blessed Sacrament at any time. (Etym.Latin corporalis, bodily; from corpus, body.)

CREDENCE

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, paten, corporal, and veil used in the Mass may also be placed there until the Offertory of the Mass. (Etym. Latin credere, to believe.)

CRUET

One of two small bottles or vessels to contain the water and wine used at the Consecration of the Mass. They are presented as offerings of the faithful at the Offertory. The cruets are also used for a priest's ablution after the Offertory and the ablution of the chalice after Communion.

HOST

A victim of sacrifice, and therefore the consecrated Bread of the Eucharist considered as the sacrifice of the Body of Christ. The word is also used of the round wafers used for consecration. (Etym. Latin hostia, sacrificial offering.)

INTINCTION

The Eucharistic practice of partly dipping the consecrated bread, or host, into the consecrated wine before consumption by the communicant.

PATEN

A saucer like dish of the same material as the chalice--gold-plated and consecrated by a bishop or his delegate with holy chrism. It must be large enough to cover the chalice. On it rests the bread to be consecrated, and later on the Sacred Host. (Etym. Latin patena, a broad, shallow dish or pan.)

PISCINA (SACRARIUM)

An excavation or basin, provided with a drain directly to the earth, for the disposal of water that has been used for some sacred purpose and is no longer needed. The name is also given to the baptismal font or cistern. A sacrarium, synonymous with piscina, receives the water from the washing of the sacred vessels and linens. It is generally located in the sacristy of a church. (Etym. Latin piscis, fish.)

PURIFICATOR

A small piece of white linen, marked with a cross in the center, used by the priest in the celebration of Mass. It is folded in three layers and used by the priest to purify his fingers and the chalice and paten after Holy Communion.

PYX

Any metal box or vessel in which the Blessed Sacrament is kept or carried. The term is more aptly applied to the small round metal case (usually gold-plated) used to carry a few hosts on visitation to the sick but the larger ciborium is also called a pyx. (Etym. Greek puxis, box.)

SACRISTY

A room attached to a church, usually near the altar, where the clergy vest for ecclesiastical functions. The sacristy affords storage for sacred vessels, vestments, and other articles needed for liturgical use. The sacrarium is usually located there. (Etym. Latin sacristia, from sacrum, holy, sacred.)

TABERNACLE

A cupboard or boxlike receptacle for the exclusive reservation of the Blessed Sacrament. Tabernacles may be round or rectangular and made of wood, stone, or metal. They are covered with a veil and lined with precious metal or silk, with a corporal beneath the ciboria or other sacred vessels. According to the directive of the Holy See, since the Second Vatican Council, tabernacles are always solid and inviolable and located in the middle of the main altar or on a side altar, but always in a truly prominent place (Eucharisticum Myserium, May 25, 1967, II C). (Etym. Latin tabernaculum, tent, diminutive of taberna, hut, perhaps from Etruscan.)

To Summarize:

- 1. Dress Appropriately and Modestly. (Check the Etiquette in the Liturgy handout)
- 2. Please be in the church at least 10 minutes before the Mass time to pick up the medallion, and to pray with the priest, lectors and Altar servers. (if you are in a choir, you don't have to)
- 3. Even if you are not scheduled to serve, please check with the sacristan if he/she needs help!
- 4. When the people finish saying: "Lord I am not worthy that you should enter under my roof...", the extraordinary ministers move to the front of the Sanctuary steps.
- 5. **All bow** when the priest steps around the side of the altar.
- After receiving communion, if there is a deacon, the extraordinary ministers should divide evenly and approach each side of the altar. If there is NO deacon, an additional EMHC should approach the altar on the choir side.

Deacon Present:

For 11 am & 1 pm Masses:

8 EMHC; 4 should go on each side of the altar.

For 5 pm, 7 pm, 7 am, 9 am & 6 pm Masses:

6 EMs; 3 should go each side of the altar.

NO Deacon:

For 11 am & 1 pm Masses:

9 EMHC; 5 EMs will go on the choir side; 4 EMs will go on the ambo side of the altar.

For 5 pm, 7 pm, 7 am, 9 am & 6 pm Masses:

7 EMs; 4 EMs will go on the choir side; 3 EMs will go on the ambo side.

- 7. **To receive the ciborium or the cups:** come up near the Altar; 1st EM receives the cup, consumes the blood and gives to the 2nd EM; and receives the ciborium (host); First two EMs (west side) go to the choir members. The third and the forth Ems go to their spots (to the people).
- 8. The same steps with others EMs on the Ambo side. 1st EM receives the cup, consumes the blood and gives to the 2nd EM; and receives the ciborium (host) and go to their spots. The others follow the same.

- EMHC should never bless anyone but JUST SAY, "Receive the Lord Jesus in your heart." They do this by holding a consecrated host in front of the person they are serving.
- 10. **Wait for ALL** of the Extraordinary Ministers to finish serving; and ALL turn towards the altar.
- 11. If there is any **precious Blood left in their cup**, they consume it at their station, facing the Altar; do not walk and drink it. If unable to consume it, return to the priest or deacon Altar as it is.
- 12. **Never wipe out the inside of your cup** after serving and do not place the purificators inside the cup. **The cup must be rinsed** by the priest or deacon.
- Returning the ciborium and the cup: reverse the direction you took before your communion; please come around the ambo or away from the altar.
- 14. Hand your cup and the purificators to the Priest or Deacon separately.
- 15. To return, go down closer to the altar, and wait for ALL EMs to come down.
- 16. Step down in front of the Sanctuary and bow together while the priest or deacon genuflects before the tabernacle.
- 17. Return to your seat / pew reverently.
- 18. After the Mass, please return the medallion to the vestibule.

SACRISTANS:

Before Mass:

- 1. Please be present at least 20 minutes before the Mass.
- 2. Check with the priests or deacon about the number of EMHC needed.
- 3. Pour the wine (a quarter cup) in the common cups. (15 min. before the Mass begins)
- 4. Check for needed purificators; and a few extra in case of emergency.
- Come back to the foyer and handout the medallions 1st the scheduled / assigned EMHC; then, if the scheduled are NOT there, look for substitutes. If they are dressed inappropriately, PLEASE DO NOT ASK THEM.

(Because they are not scheduled, they might not come appropriately dressed to serve)

- 6. If you are not in the choir, please stay back and pray with the priests / deacon / altar servers.
- 7. Please take a lead to inspire the scheduled EMs to serve during the Mass.

After Mass:

- 8. When transporting the Sacred vessels to the sacristy for cleaning, use **a tray for the cups**, otherwise carry only one vessel or ciborium in each hand.
- 9. Please do not bundle the vessels in your arms.
- 10. **Children are not to carry sacred vessels.** Only extraordinary Ministers should be handling the vessels.
- 11. Take to clean ONLY the common cups; and dry them with the clothe provided for it.
- 12. You do not have to wash the Priest's Chalice / Patten & the Ciboria.
- 13. Please **do not immerse** the cups or any sacred vessels in the water.
- 14. Only use running water, preferably warm to remove the lipsticks!
- 15. Once it is ready, prepare for the next Mass a ciborium + a flagon with wine for offertory.

Sat. 5 pm & 7 pm; Sun. 7 am, 9 am & 6 pm – FOUR Cups

 $\underline{\mathsf{Sun.}\; 11\; \mathsf{am}\; \&\; 1\; \mathsf{pm}} - \mathsf{SIX}\;\; \mathsf{or}\; \mathsf{EIGHT}\; \mathsf{cups}$

- 16. Please check the schedule it is available
 - on the St. Matthew website,
 - the St. Matthew App,
 - the bulletin board in the church and
 - in the wall pockets in the foyer,
 - as well as being emailed to you.
- 17. Many are scheduled to serve at a particular Mass. However, they are not aware of their schedule to serve. Please remind one another.

Proper Etiquette for EMHC

- Always dress modestly and appropriately, NOT too casually.
- We should offer Christ our best; and the same is true of our dress.
- not in a flashy way that would bring attention to ourselves or distract anyone with inappropriate dress.
- Women and girls: Dresses should be modest in length and not tight fitting. Legs and arms should be modestly covered. No sleeveless

- dresses or blouses, nor dresses with only straps at the shoulders or off the shoulders or blouses; no short skirts (mini-skirts), and no tight fitting dresses or skirts.
- Dresses should have backs and not be cut low in the front. If women wear pants to church, better be dress pants or jeans (tight Jeans, leggings, etc. are not encouraged; NEVER ones with patches or holes.). Shorts of any type are never appropriate for church.
- ➤ If you're going somewhere after or before Mass, where you need to dress casually, bring a change of clothing with you and change after or before Mass. Use your best judgements.
- Men and boys: Men and boys should also dress modestly. While coat and tie are not mandatory, if shirts, be buttoned (only the collar button may be left undone) Jeans (of any color) are usually ok for church; but NOT ones with patches or holes.
- Shorts are not appropriate church wear. If you're going somewhere after or before Mass, where you need to dress casually, bring a change of clothing with you and change after or before Mass. Use your best judgements.

Resources

Available on the web Various resources on the Eucharist available from the United States Catholic Conference of Bishops (USCCB)

www.usccb.org/liturgy/documents.shtml

Bishops Committee on Liturgy Newsletter - September 2004

http://www.usccb.org/liturgy/innews/0904.shtml; Extraordinary Ministers of Holy

Communion; http://www.usccb.org/romanmissal/resources-guides4.shtml

General Instruction of the Roman Missal 2007

http://usccb.org/liturgy/current/revmissalisromanien.shtml

Norms for Holy Communion under Both Kinds

http://www.usccb.org/liturgy/current/norms.shtml

Redemptionis Sacamentum (On certain matters to be observed or to be avoided regarding the Most Holy Eucharist)

http://www.usccb.org/liturgy/documents/menu.shtml

Catechism of the Catholic Church 1997

http://www.usccb.org/catechism/text/

Constitution on the Sacred Liturgy (Sacrosantum Concillium) from Vatican Council II

Catechism of the Catholic Church, 1997; Documents of Vatican Council II

General Introduction to the Roman Missal, 2007

Norms for the Distribution and Reception of Holy Communion under Both Kinds in the Dioceses of the united States, 2002

Available from Liturgy Training Publications 1-800-933-1800

Guide for Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion, 2007