

QUALIFICATIONS

Your service as an extraordinary minister requires that you be a practicing Catholic, go to reconciliation regularly and reflect the Catholic faith with your actions. Before mass, you will want to prepare yourself spiritually through prayer and quiet repose. You will be reflecting on your participation, the handling of the sacred vessels and serving the Holy Eucharist. Our movements and actions are humble and reverent, reflecting the role we perform. We need to be mindful of the laws of the Church regarding communion. Here are some items below to read over.

Are there any spiritual or moral demands of the church?

The Church insists that candidates should be noted for their Christian life and morals. Those commissioned must strive to be examples of Christian living in faith and conduct.

The church understands human weakness. Even our religious are susceptible. We all have our off days or difficult issues we must work through. It is our faith and prayers that help us become better people and strive for holiness. We are not privileged or rank above others in our duty. We are called to be servants and serve in an unhasting manner.

Father Tustin had these words to say, "the Church's custom shows that it is necessary for each person to examine himself at depth, and that anyone who is conscious of grave sin should not celebrate or receive the Body of the Lord without prior sacramental confession, except for grave reason when the possibility of confession is lacking; in this case he will remember that he is bound by the obligation of making an act of perfect contrition, which includes the intention to confess as soon as possible."

What if I am divorced or remarry?

The difficulty is with a marriage outside the church and without the Church's blessing. Our priest can be of help here. Being a divorced or single parent does not prevent you from being an extraordinary minister, if you are a practicing Catholic.

How long is our commitment?

According to the diocese, our commitment is three years; however, depending on circumstances at a parish, one can serve longer. The number of masses, parishioners in attendance, special and holiday masses will determine how many stations will be necessary. With our deacons or other priests concelebrating, we adjust the number.

An extraordinary minister will serve a month at a time for weekend masses. In an effort to reduce frequency of serving, we try to have you on a three to four month cycle. This helps in planning and sharing of responsibility.

Should circumstances change or for personal reasons, you should never feel uncomfortable to request for a change in status to be a substitute or step down. If you need to step down, do not hesitate to approach a minister coordinator about serving in the future.

We are always in need of extraordinary ministers to take communion to the sick and home bound. Deacon Gene and Melanie Lewis would be glad to speak to you more about this.

Am I commissioned only for my parish or for any church?

The normal appointment is for service in one's parish where the individual is commissioned, not for the entire diocese or the universal church.

If you feel you qualify, please contact one of the following:

Minister Coordinator Laura Gilbert 996-3128

5:30 Mass - Mike Watts 993-9491

8:45 Mass - Ray Ruttle 993-5212

11:15 Mass - Olga Sasser 993-7179

2:00 Mass - Anne Sanchez 661-1008

Deacon Gene Gillis 996-5209

Should you have further questions of a personal nature, please make an appointment to meet with our priest, Fr. Paul Dechant.