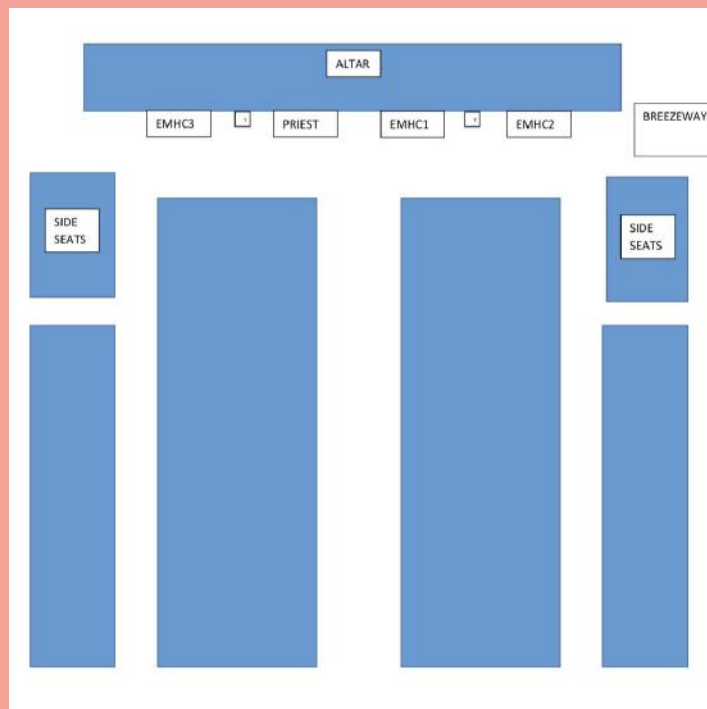


cover it. When Communion concludes, bring the purificator with you to the next step.

- After Communion, all ministers will place his or her ciborium on the altar. Hand the priest any fallen consecrated hosts. Line up on the side of the altar closest to the breezeway.
- The priest will hand each minister either a ciborium containing consecrated hosts or the pyx containing low-gluten hosts. After each minister has been given either a ciborium or the pyx, all three ministers will proceed to the tabernacle.
- Place the ciboria and pyx into the tabernacle.
- Close the tabernacle and genuflect in unison. Leave the tabernacle key in the tabernacle.
- Rinse the fingers you used for distributing Communion in the dish next to the tabernacle.
- All ministers should then walk down the stairs of the sanctuary, line up in front of the altar, bow, then return to their seats.

St. Mark Parish thanks you for your dedicated service!



EXTRAORDINARY MINISTER OF HOLY COMMUNION HANDBOOK



St. Mark Catholic Church

30 Melvin Avenue
Catonsville, Maryland 21228
(410) 744-6560
stmarkchurch-catonsville.org



PARISH MISSION STATEMENT

Grounded, fortified and nourished by the Eucharist, the members of St. Mark Church share with all the unconditional love of God through active witness to the Gospel of Jesus Christ by learning, living and loving our Faith.

CALL TO SERVE

"You are a 'chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people of his own, so that you may announce the praises' of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light" (1 Peter 2:9).

All liturgical ministers are, first and foremost, members of the Body of Christ. Through their baptism they are the "holy people and royal priesthood" whose right and privilege it is to participate in the ministry of Christ. How the lay faithful exercise this ministry in the world varies, but the fullest and most fundamental expression of it has always been "conscious, active and fruitful participation in the mystery of the Eucharist" (*General Instruction Of The Roman Missal - GIRM, Introduction #5*).

Since the celebration of the Eucharist is the "action of the whole Church" (*GIRM, Introduction #5*), everyone in the assembly has "an individual right and duty to contribute their participation" (*GIRM #58*).

Some of the faithful are called to serve God's people in a more particular way through one of the many liturgical ministries that have flourished in the Church since the Second Vatican Council. This diversity of roles, functions and ministries enriches our celebrations and assists us in our prayer. Serving in one of these ministries is both an honor and a responsibility, and those who commit to it need nurturing and support.

This handbook has been prepared to help you grow in a deeper understanding and love for the liturgy, your ministry and ultimately the Lord whom we all serve. This handbook is designed to assist in properly preparing for Mass so as to assist the faithful experience Jesus Christ in His Word and through His Body.

GENERAL GUIDELINES

- Eucharistic Ministers have the privilege of administering Holy Communion, the Body and Blood of our Lord Jesus Christ, to our brothers and sisters in the congregation. Through this humble service, God unites you to your fellow members of the Body of Christ.
- All Confirmed, practicing Catholics are invited to participate in this ministry.
- **Dress Code:** Formal attire is required.

- Please send your availability to Tess Tyrrell at tess.tyrrell@archbalt.org by the 15th of the month prior.
- Please contact Daria Kaas at daria.kaas@archbalt.org with any questions or concerns

INSTRUCTIONS

- Please arrive 15 minutes before Mass and sign-in in the sacristy.
- **5 minutes before Mass**, enter the priest's sacristy for a prayer with all liturgical ministers.
- At the conclusion of the Sign of Peace and at the beginning of the Lamb of God, all Extraordinary Ministers will come forward, genuflect/bow before the altar in unison, and enter the sanctuary.
- If a deacon or con-celebrating priest is present, whomever is assigned to the third slot need not come forward.
- Whomever is assigned to the first and second slots will proceed to the tabernacle, genuflect, and remove the ciboria and the pyx containing the low gluten hosts. Leave the lids on the ciboria and place the ciboria and pyx on the altar to the right of the priest. All ministers will then line up on the side of the altar closest to the breezeway.
- After the priest has distributed the ciboria, proceed to your assigned Communion station. EMHC2 should first distribute Communion to the handicap pews. If the choir is present, EMHC3 should first distribute Communion to the choir.
- Before distributing Communion and always after administering on the tongue, sanitize your hands at a sanitizing station.
- Make eye contact with the person before you and prayerfully proclaim, "The Body of Christ."
- When someone approaches who cannot receive Communion (indicated by one's arms crossed over the chest), place your hand on his or her shoulder and pray, "May the Lord Bless you."
- If the Sacred Host is dropped, you should pick it up, open the purificator at the sanitizing station, place the host inside, and