

**GUIDELINES FOR
EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS OF THE EUCHARIST
St. Thomas the Apostle Parish**

**“RECEIVE WHAT YOU ARE. BE WHAT YOU RECEIVE.”
(St. Augustine)**

The following guidelines are provided in accord with the *General Instruction on the Roman Missal*, which is the official document of the Church providing specific instruction regarding how the Eucharist is to be celebrated.

1. After offering the Sign of Peace and during the singing of the *Lamb of God*, the extraordinary ministers of the Eucharist approach the altar and take their places behind the presider. *It is not necessary to reverence the altar.*
2. After the presider receives his own communion, he will distribute the Eucharist to the ministers of the Eucharist.
 - .Fr. Ken and Fr. Mike will instruct the ministers regarding their position – one at the south door, one at the north door, and one in the center;
 - .as you approach your station, please be mindful of people in the front pew or in wheelchairs who are unable to come forward to receive the Eucharist;
 - .they should be served first.
3. As each person approaches, hold the host at eye level saying “The Body of Christ.”
 - .make eye contact with the person receiving; please remember that the response of the person receiving is to the Body of Christ, not to you;
 - .place the Body of Christ in the hand or on the tongue as indicated by the individual receiving;
 - .if you or the recipient should drop the Body of Christ, you should pick it up and reserve it in your hand until you finish distributing communion to the faithful.
Do not give it to the individual. Instead return to the sacristy and place the consecrated host in the Sacramentum sink under warm water until it dissolves. If appropriate, you may consume the consecrated host yourself.
 - .when everyone has received communion, please follow this procedure:
 - .the ministers should proceed to the tabernacle with what is remaining in the communion patens
 - .all ministers should remain at the tabernacle
 - a. when the Eucharist has been placed in the tabernacle, all genuflect or bow and return to your seats.