

Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion

The Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion are those who—first and foremost—proclaim by their lives their belief that they are the Body of Christ. Their lives are faith made visible and Church identity practiced. This ministry is about the proclamation of who we Christians claim to be: Body of Christ.

Those who are called to be extraordinary ministers of Holy Communion must be fully initiated (Baptism, Confirmation, and Eucharist) members of the Church who, if married, are in a proper canonical marriage. They should exhibit evidence of both love and respect for the Holy Eucharist. *Pastoral Directives, Diocese of Salt Lake City, pp. 66-67.*

In the Diocese of Salt Lake City, those who are called to this ministry must complete at least Level I training. If the minister is called to serve the parish or local community as a minister to the Sick and Dying or as a lay leader of prayer the minister must complete Level II and Level III training. Once training is completed, the minister is commissioned by the pastor during a Sunday liturgy. The minister should be commissioned for a certain period of time and never indefinitely. *Office of Liturgy*

Characteristics of the Spirituality of Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion

- Takes faith seriously
- Believes self and others are truly the Body of Christ
- Cares for spiritual and temporal welfare of others
- Abhors factions and fosters reconciliation
- Comfortable looking others “in the eye”
- Prays for surrender and genuine charity
- Dependable
- Lives out the Word proclaimed

Training Offered by the Diocese for Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion

Level I: Those who assist at Mass on Sundays and weekdays

Level II: Those who celebrate Communion of the Sick in homes, hospitals, nursing homes, etc.

Level III: Those who lead *Sunday Celebration in the Absence of a Priest*

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