



OFFICE OF DIVINE WORSHIP

Archdiocese of Newark

POLICY FOR EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS OF HOLY COMMUNION

For the complete **Guidelines for Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion**
please visit www.rcan.org/worship under "Liturgical Ministers"

- An Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion must be a practicing Catholic in good standing with the Church.
- An Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion must be a fully initiated member of the Catholic Church, that is, they must have received all of the Sacraments of Initiation (Baptism, Confirmation and First Communion).
- An Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion must be aware of the sacredness of the Body and Blood of Christ, particularly as found in the Eucharistic elements of Holy Communion.
- An Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion must have proper training for distributing the Body and Blood of Christ in the particular parish or worshipping community for which the mandate is given.
- An Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion must be eighteen (18) years of age or older to serve in this ministry. (See below).
- An Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion must be mandated by the Archbishop of Newark. (See **Guidelines for Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion** for information on how to request a mandate).
- The mandate only applies to the worshipping community in which the minister serves. If a minister wishes to serve at another worshipping community, even within the Archdiocese of Newark, the pastor, administrator or chaplain of that community must request the extension in writing from the Office of Divine Worship.

The only exception to the age requirement for Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion is as follows:

- A senior in a Catholic high school who is seventeen (17) years of age and who will turn eighteen (18) years old during the academic school year may be mandated as an Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion.
- This mandate applies only to Eucharistic liturgies celebrated at the school and not to the parish where the student resides.
- Upon turning eighteen, the Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion may receive an extension to serve in his or her local parish at the request of the minister's pastor in writing to the Director of the Office of Divine Worship.