

LITURGY BYTES

Serving Our Church Family



Did you ever think about having a more active part in the Mass? One of the special gifts we have as baptized Catholics is to serve Our Lord to our sisters and brothers at Mass. Those in this ministry are known as Ministers of Holy Communion, a/k/a EMs (Eucharistic Ministers). It is a privilege to have this opportunity to bring Christ to others whether during Mass or to those parishioners who are homebound. The Diocese offers training twice a year in the fall and in the spring, followed by our own Holy Cross training.

It might also be helpful to speak to one of the EMs you see serving at Mass to ask personally about this ministry. After Mass you will find them helping to clean the vessels used at Mass in the small Sacristy next to the Chapel. I know they would be delighted to speak with you and answer your questions. It is also good to pray about it—ask God to guide you and give you strength to take the next step. Once you feel it is something to pursue, you will need to speak with Fr. Michael. He will submit your name to the Bishop's office. You will then choose your training date and location from the information that I will give you.

After the Diocesan training, you will receive a card stating you are a Minister of Holy Communion for the Parish of the Holy Cross. It is suggested that you carry this with you. I will arrange for you to have a short Holy Cross training with one of our veterans, and your contact information along with your Mass of Preference to serve will be added to the Parish's EM list. Also, there is a small commissioning prayer that Fr. Michael will offer for you at the first Mass you will serve at. The schedule is done on a two-month basis with copies available on the website or at the Parish Office. We gather for ministry meetings and have special guest speakers during the year for support and community.

Please consider responding to your baptism to live as an active member. You will not regret the privilege of bringing Jesus to others.

Have a prayerful, peaceful, and blessed week ahead! ~ *Michele Hall*