

New Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion & Readers

St. Paul Parish is inviting parishioners to consider serving as a Reader or Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion (EMHC) at Mass. There will be a day of reflection and training session for new members of these ministries on **Sunday, February 19** from 1:15 to 5:15 p.m. in the St. Paul Church Hall. Those currently serving in these ministries will also participate in this program as well. Candidates for these ministries must meet the qualifications noted below. If you are interested in being an EMHC or Reader, please contact Fr. Joe or the parish office so that you can secure the permission needed to attend the program on February 19th.

EMHC are properly formed, instructed and commissioned lay persons who are appointed for a given parish community to aid in the distribution of Holy Communion at Mass and to the sick and homebound when ordinary ministers of Holy Communion are unavailable.

Readers (Lectors) are lay persons commissioned to proclaim the readings from Sacred Scripture at Mass, not including the Gospel. Readers should possess the skills necessary for effective oral proclamation which is essential for this ministry.

Qualifications for EMHC and Readers: The Archbishop of Hartford regulates the ministry of EMHC and Readers in collaboration with the pastors of the parishes of the Archdiocese. EMHC and Readers are to meet the following qualifications:

1. Be at least 17 years of age
2. Have received the Sacrament of Confirmation
3. Have a continuing relationship with the parish and regularly participate in the Eucharist, that is attend Mass each weekend.
4. Strives to live a life consistent with the teachings of the Catholic Church
5. If married, are in a valid Catholic marriage
6. Have the Pastor's permission
7. Complete an online Virtus Training session
8. **Readers** must possess the skills needed for effective oral proclamation

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