

TERMINOLOGY

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament (also called Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament) – The practice of visibly exposing the Eucharist to the faithful outside of Mass for a period of intimate prayer with Christ. A consecrated Host is placed in a decorative stand called a *Monstrance* on the Altar. The Host can be seen and gazed at through the glass in the Monstrance. At the beginning of Adoration, typically the traditional hymn *O Salutaris* is sung, and the Blessed Sacrament is incensed. At the end, the Blessed Sacrament is incensed again while the hymn *Tantum Ergo* is sung. After the incensation, the priest or deacon blesses the people with the Eucharist by picking up the Monstrance with a Humeral Veil (to cover the hands of the priest, thus emphasizing that Jesus is blessing the people directly) and making the Sign of the Cross with the Eucharist over the people. This blessing is referred to as *Benediction*, or *Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament*. The period of Adoration can vary, from a short period of time (for example, 30 minutes) to several hours, or even days. Whenever Adoration happens, there must always be at least one person present in prayer. During the time of Adoration, after the beginning and before the end, various things can be done which help the faithful: Scripture readings, preaching, various vocal prayers, silent prayer, and music.

Ciborium (plural: *Ciboria*) – a specially made container of hosts; useful for (1) containing hosts to be consecrated on the Altar at Mass, (2) distributing consecrated Hosts to the Faithful, and (3) storing consecrated Hosts in the Tabernacle, with a lid.

Chalice –

- *Principal Chalice*: the main chalice featured in the Mass; often the Principal Chalice is used only for priests and deacons
- *Communion Chalices*: the Chalices used to distribute the Precious Blood to the faithful; they are usually more plain than the Principal Chalice, and more suited for distribution

Communicate – the desired verb to use when referring to the act of distributing the Minister of Holy Communion to the faithful. For example, the priest might ask, “Susan, can you communicate the Precious Blood to the servers?”

Credence Table – the designated table on which the vessels used for Mass are placed

Distribute – the act of communicating the Eucharist to a group of people

EMHC – Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion. There are 2 types of Ministers of Holy Communion, *Ordinary* and *Extraordinary*. *Ordinary Ministers of Holy Communion* are the ordained (bishops, priests, and deacons). One of the roles flowing from Holy Orders is the privilege and duty to distribute the Body and Blood of Christ to the faithful. For this reason, they always have preference in distribution. *Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion* are designated and trained lay persons who help the ordained distribute, when the need to distribute is greater than the ordained can reasonably be expected to fulfill. When needed, they can help distribute the Body and Blood of Christ to the faithful in Mass, and bring Hosts to the sick and homebound outside of Mass.

Eucharist – the name given to the Sacrament of Christ’s Body and Blood; literally Eucharist means “Thanksgiving”

Other Names for the Eucharist:

- Blessed Sacrament
- (Precious) Body and Blood of Christ
- Bread from Heaven
- Bread of Angels
- Holy Communion
- Host(s)
- Lamb of God
- Manna
- Mass
- Most Holy Sacrament of the Altar / Sacrament Most Holy
- Sacrifice of the Mass

Finger Bowl – a bowl with water, covered, with a little towel next to it; there is one on the Purification Table and one next to the Tabernacle. Those who distributed the Host should dip their fingers (the ones used for distributing the Host) into the water bowl, and then dry their fingers on the towel. This is just for being thorough. One can usually see and feel any particles on one’s fingers. If there are particles, they should either be consumed or rubbed off in the finger bowl. If not, it is not necessary to purify one’s fingers in the bowl.

Monstrance – a decorative stand in which the Blessed Sacrament is displayed upon the Altar for the faithful to adore

Particle – a small piece of the Host. Since Jesus is fully present in each and every part of the Host, even when the Host is broken, great care should be taken that all particles are consumed and not wasted. The Fathers of the Church said that if we had gold, how careful we would be to preserve and protect the smallest particles, since they are worth so much; how much more the Body of Christ!

Paten – a small plate for the Host. Patens can be small or large. Traditional patens only fit one or very few hosts, typically only for the priests. Larger patens are used for distribution to the faithful during Mass. Patens should only be used for Mass. Hosts should be stored in a covered Ciborium in the Tabernacle, not in an uncovered Paten.

Purification – Purification is the name for a proper cleaning of the sacred vessels after Holy Communion. It can be done at Mass, after the distribution of Holy Communion, either at the Altar or Credence Table. It can also be done after Mass in the Sacristy. Only clergy and installed acolytes should purify the vessels in normal circumstances. If they are not available, then the EMHC should purify.

Purification Table – the table designated to place the vessels after the distribution of Holy Communion

Purificator – the cloth used to wipe the Chalices

Pyx – a small container designed to bring Holy Communion to the Sick and Homebound

Sanctuary Lamp – the continuously burning candle near the Tabernacle, signaling the Presence of Jesus in the Tabernacle

Station – a designated place for the distribution of Holy Communion

Tabernacle – where the Hosts are stored securely