

Guidelines for Eucharistic Minister

St. John's Church

January 2016

The Eucharist is the Body and Blood, Soul and Divinity of Christ. An inward preparation is required that includes prayer and fasting as prescribed by the Church. This preparation creates the disposition of our heart, mind and soul for the ministry being undertaken, and should be taken very seriously.

Procedures:

1. Please arrive 10-15 minutes before Mass. Meet with the other ministers and check off your name in the minister's schedule.
2. Go to the sacristy and help set up for Mass. For the credence table, set up the handwashing bowl, the towel, two chalices, two palls, two purificators, and the water cruet. The following items are to be taken to the table in the back of the church:
 - Carafe filled to the mark with wine
 - Two bowls with hosts
3. AT COMMUNION TIME come to the altar platform level at the end of the Sign of Peace.
4. After the priest receives the Body of Christ, he will begin distributing the Body of Christ to the Ministers. All Ministers receive from the Chalice, and the Chalice Ministers take both the Chalice and the purificator from the priest. All proceed together to their respective communion stations. The Body of Christ ministers are in the center aisle. As the Body of Christ is given to each communicant, the Body of Christ Minister looks into the communicant's eyes and says "The Body of Christ." Wait for the response "Amen!" Then place the Body of Christ on the open palm of the hand or on the tongue, whichever the communicant presents to you.
5. The Chalice Ministers go to the side of the Body of Christ Ministers with the Blood of Christ. As the Blood of Christ is given to each communicant, the Chalice Minister looks into the communicant's eyes and says "The Blood of Christ." Wait for the response "Amen!" Then release the Chalice into the communicant's hands. The Chalice is to be taken by the communicant and a sip of the Blood of Christ is taken. The communicant is not supposed to "dunk" the Bread of Christ into the Chalice themselves. If you encounter this, do nothing at the time, but please inform the priest later. If it becomes more than just an occasional issue, he will address it with appropriate instructions to all. When you take the Chalice back, be sure to wipe the Chalice with the purificator, and then turn the Chalice one-quarter of a turn before handing it to the next communicant.
6. If Sacred Blood should happen to be spilled, use your purificator to blot then cover the area. Then go to get a clean purificator. If a host drops on the floor, pick it up and consume it immediately or consume it when you are done. If you run out of Hosts consecrated at this Mass, you may use the reserved Blessed Sacrament. If you are concerned about running out of the Body of Christ, you can begin to break the hosts into half pieces, or smaller pieces as appropriate.
7. When all are finished distributing communion, the Body of Christ minister goes to the altar where the celebrant will combine all the remaining hosts into the ciborium. That minister then places that ciborium in the tabernacle. The empty bowls go on the credence table. All ministers wait at the tabernacle until the Body of Christ is reposed and the tabernacle is closed. Genuflect together. After

genuflecting, the ministers return to their pews. When finished distributing the Blood of Christ, if there is any Blood of Christ left, consume what is remaining and place it on the credence table covered with the purificator. Do not put the purificator into the Chalice.

8. After Mass, all sacred vessels should be purified **in silence** in the sacristy. To purify a vessel, a small amount of water from a water pitcher should be poured in each of the vessels (bowls and chalices), and swirled to dissolve all fragments in the bowls and the residue in the chalice. The water should then be consumed so none of the Body and Blood remains in the vessels. The vessel should be gently wiped with a purificator and then washed and then stored.) It is the responsibility of all Eucharistic Ministers to assist first in the purification and then in the washing of the vessels. Never wash a sacred vessel unless it has first been purified. The purificator and corporal linens should be treated as sacred linens because of the Consecrated fragments collected on them.