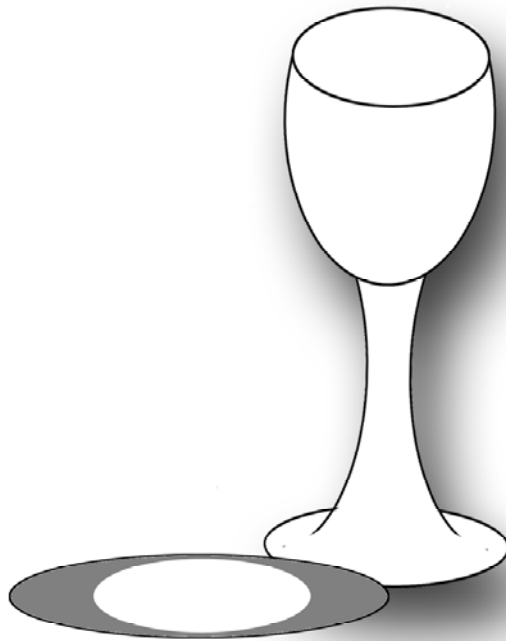


Eucharistic Minister Duties

Corpus Christi



"There is no celebration more significant to
the life of the church than
the Celebration of the Eucharist"

1. Scheduled to Serve – Arrive twenty minutes BEFORE Mass begins.

2 ministers are required for the Corpus Christi mass. Special masses, eg. Christmas and Easter may require more ministers; this will be pre-arranged when required.

Ministers must be signed in at least 15 minutes before mass starts. The Adult Servers will begin to look for emergency replacements 10 minutes before mass. If you arrive after that time and someone else has been asked to take your place, **the replacement will serve**. To serve as a Eucharistic Minister is not a right but a privilege. We offer the body and blood of Jesus Christ to the parishioners. Please demonstrate the proper respect due to this very sacred ministry by arriving on time.

Leave your cross on the credence table (small table behind the ambo) right after you have finished distributing communion.

2. SCHEDULED to Serve but Late to Arrive

If you arrive late go to the Sacristy and check the sign up sheet in case there is still a vacant slot. If so, sign in and take a cross.

3. NOT Scheduled to Serve

If you are not scheduled to serve please check in case not all the ministers have signed in. If we still require ministers, please sign in if requested to do so by the adult server.

EMERGENCY SERVER: You are an emergency server if you serve at a mass you are not scheduled for. Place an "3" after your signature to denote this. This will help us keep track of how we are doing as a Ministry and also to establish whether ministers have moved from the parish, etc.

REPLACEMENT SERVER: If you have been asked to replace someone on the schedule you are a replacement. Place an "2" after your name. You can also sign your name and then indicate the name of the person you are replacing.

4. Prayer Before Mass

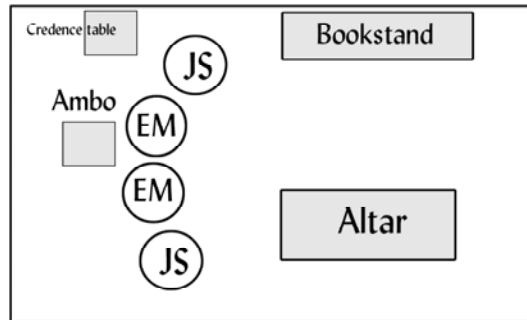
The presiding priest and all the servers pray together before mass begins. If Father has any special instructions for the mass or general information he wants to share, he will do so at this time.

5. Approaching the Altar for Serving at Communion.

When Father gives the sign of peace and those on the altar shake hands, shake hands with two people around you and then proceed to the Altar.

6. Positions to receive the bowls and cups from the Adult Servers for all regular masses.

Line up between the Junior Servers



Father will distribute the hosts to each minister. Do not consume your host at this time; hold it in the palm of your hand until Father has returned to the altar and consumed his. Only then should you consume yours.

7. Adult Servers passing out the bowls and cups.

After everyone has consumed from the cup, the Adult Server will pass out the bowls and cups. Each Eucharistic Minister is given clear instructions on where to stand. If unsure where to stand ask the adult server to be more explicit.

All Eucharistic Ministers will remain facing the Altar until the priest and the Second Adult Server come down the steps to serve and, then will all turn at the same time and begin distribution.

8. Distributing the Consecrated host.

It is important to make eye contact before saying “**Body of Christ**”. Do not hold the host up as if in adoration but place it directly in the palm of the communicant. The Eucharistic Celebration is a time for sharing, not a time for adoration.

Children: If you are unsure whether or not a child can receive, simply ask the child “Are you allowed to receive?” or ask the adult behind the child (usually the parent). Do not refuse a child unless you are sure.

Children from the Ukrainian rite are allowed to receive Eucharist at baptism. Even small children can receive the Eucharist.

If you are serving hosts you must watch how many people are in the receiving line and how many hosts are remaining. If you feel you may run out, first check with Father to see if he may have extras. **All must receive.** So you may have to break the hosts. If you think you are going to be short, begin breaking as soon as possible. Never take hosts from the Eucharistic Minister beside you. The transfer of hosts is to be done at the altar over a corporal. The priest may transfer while in the communion line if he wishes.

Do not forget the Choir

Host that has been dropped: Pick it up and hold it in your hand beneath the bowl. Inform the adult server and it will be disposed of later. N.B. There are certain procedures in disposing consecrated hosts and wine.

Distributing to someone unable to come to the front: Serve them at their place and then continue with your line.

Distributing to people with Pyxes: Fill the pyx with the requested number of hosts and then serve the individual. Consecrated hosts should ONLY be put in pyxes.

When Distribution is complete: Take the bowl or cup directly to the Credence table. Do not hand it to a Junior Server. Remove your cross and place on the table.

9. Distributing Consecrated Wine.

Make eye contact before saying “**Blood of Christ**”. Wipe the inside of the lip of the cup as well as the outside. Move the purificator so that a clean section is used to wipe the cup each time a communicant drinks.

Rotate the cup after each offering.

Intinction: If someone is about to dip the host into the cup gently remind the person that this is not permitted. If they wish, they can bow to the cup as their sign of faith and reverence.

If intinction does occur and any pieces of the host fall into the cup, cover it immediately and let Father know. Only the gold chalice that Father drinks from may have a piece(s) of host in it. Father places a piece of host into the chalice at the Altar.

Precious Blood spilled while distributing: Place the purificator over the spilled Precious Blood. Step in front of the spill. Motion to the adult server that you need a new purificator; one will be brought to you.

Precious Blood unfit to drink: If the Precious Blood becomes unfit for consumption (i.e. if someone spits or regurgitates back into the cup) cover the cup and return to the credence table. You must inform the adult servers that the contents are contaminated and not fit for drinking. The adult servers consume any leftover blood after communion, so need to know of this eventuality.

10. Blessings

A Blessing may be given to those who approach the altar with their arms folded or with one arm placed across the chest, denoting they are not to receive communion, and to young children

Gently place your hand on the shoulder of the person or the head of the child and use words such as:

- God be with you
- Christ be with you
- The Peace of Christ be with you
- May Jesus bless you (for children the word “Jesus” is more meaningful)
- or*
- Remember that Jesus loves you.

11. Rules and Considerations

Dress Code: Modesty is a MUST

- No short skirts
- No low-cut tops
- No jeans
- No coats

You are worthy of an office and are an example to the community. Come to Mass prepared to serve,

Educators.

Eucharistic Ministers are examples to and educators for the community. Use your discretion in educating the young. For example:

- If a child approaches the altar chewing gum, gently remind him or her that chewing gum is not permitted when receiving communion.
- If a parishioner does not immediately put the host into the mouth stop the person with a reminder that the host is to be consumed immediately.

For your Info: Hygiene and transmission of disease.

According to a spokesman from the American Medical Association there has been no evidence of disease or transmission by using a common cup. The alcoholic content of the wine plus the hygienic practice of wiping the cup and rotating it for each communicant seems to remove any danger.

A Paper titled "AIDS and the Common Cup" presented by the International Anglican Liturgical Consultation in 1993 stated that HIV and AIDS infections are not possible through use of the common cup.

Points to Remember

- Remember to say "Body of Christ" or "Blood of Christ" when distributing Communion
- If a communicant asks for hosts to distribute to the sick, etc. place the number requested in the pyx provided by the communicant;
- If you are to serve on the choir side move over immediately once you have been given either the cup or bowl by the senior server. Face the altar until Father has started distributing Communion, then turn, take your position and face the congregation;
- Do not bow or genuflect at the Altar when returning to the credence table if you are carrying either the Precious Body or Blood of Christ;
- Hold the new chalices on the bowl, not the stem, when wiping clean to prevent damage;
- Remember to pick up a cross when signing in;
- Return your cross to the credence table after Communion;
- If you arrive late the list might already be filled. If not scheduled check with the senior server to see if you are perhaps needed to fill in;
- The senior server is in charge in the sacristy before Mass, but you can assist if you see the need.

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