

INSTRUCTIONS FOR EUCHARISTIC MINISTERS

Thank you very much for your willingness to serve in these ministries. What a gift to bring God to others in Word and Sacrament!

As an Extraordinary Minister of the Eucharist you will be part of the procession. Once you find your seat, please come to the front of the church. In the order of the procession, you will be behind the altar server(s), but in front of the deacon and priest.

When you reach the altar, during the entrance procession, **genuflect** (if there are two ministers side-by-side, both genuflect together), and go to your seat; do not wait on the priest to genuflect with you!

As an EM, you should not approach the altar before the priest has received Communion, and you are always to receive from the hands of the priest celebrant the vessel containing either species of the Most Holy Eucharist for distribution to the faithful.

The proper form of showing reverence and respect to the Blessed Sacrament, when receiving communion, is to bow the head. As a Eucharistic Minister, you are a leader and example to the faithful, and you must follow the norms of the Church in this regard.

You will first receive the precious body from Fr. Tim, who will say "Body of Christ," to which you will respond, "Amen." Fr. Tim will then bring the Precious Blood and say, "Blood of Christ," to which you will respond, "Amen." If you receive the Precious Blood first you will be the Extraordinary Minister of the Precious Blood for that Mass.

When distributing the Body of Christ, establish eye contact and say, while holding the Host in eye view, "The Body of Christ," or just "Body of Christ." When distributing the Precious Blood, hold the chalice up, and establishing eye contact say, "(The) Blood of Christ." After the person receives from the chalice, wipe the outer and inner rim with the purificator. Turn the cup and offer it to the next person. Use different parts of the purificator.

If the Precious Blood is spilled during Mass, use the purificator to wipe the spill or to cover a large one, and clean the area more thoroughly after Mass. Try not to get too rattled; I believe Jesus understands that accidents can happen!

The chalices will be purified after Communion has been distributed. If there is too much wine for you to consume, have another minister help you. Fr. Tim or the Deacon will purify the paten and chalices with water and consume (lay ministers are no longer to perform this purification step.)

After Mass, you will then collect the paten and chalices and return to the Sacristy for further cleaning. Use the soap and the sponge near the sink to sanitize the chalices. **DO NOT USE A CORPORAL FOR DRYING THE PATEN OR CHALICES.** Use one of the white towels in the drawer next to the sink for drying the paten and chalices.

If you are unable to serve when scheduled, find someone to replace you and let the coordinator and the pastor know that you have gotten a replacement. Your dress should appropriately reflect the dignity of the service that you are performing. If you are concerned about what you have to wear, speak to Father Tim.

If you are interested in bringing communion to the sick, please speak with Fr. Tim.