

Serving as an Extraordinary Minister of the Eucharist
Sacred Heart of Jesus Church
2010

Extraordinary ministers of the Eucharist have the profound privilege of serving the sacred food and drink of the banquet. They must always be aware of their sacred duty, moving with grace and ease carefully watching the cues and non-verbal communications of the other ministers and the priest.

Guidelines for Eucharistic ministry:

- † Dress should be business casual. Preferably no jeans, bare shoulders, t-shirts or tennis shoes. Women wearing heels are to be cautious when going up and down the stairs.
- † Remember there is a one hour fast before receiving communion. This includes gum!
- † Arrive about 10 minutes early on the day you are scheduled. Genuflect to the tabernacle, go to the credence table (on the back wall), take a medallion, making note of the position you are to take. Wear the medallion around your neck.
- † If you are not scheduled, when the five minute bell rings, if there are medallions left please take one. If you are scheduled, but arrive after all the medallions are gone you will not need to serve. If you take the last medallion, return the rack to the sacristy counter and re-enter the church through the side door.
- † As soon as the Lamb of God begins to play, approach the altar and take the place indicated by your medallion. The Sign of Peace will be over by this time.
- † After Father receives communion, he will serve the Deacon both Body & Blood. Father will distribute the consecrated bread to each minister. The Deacon will offer the cup to the cup ministers. Take the purificator from him immediately before you consume the consecrated wine. When the bread ministers receive their patens, all go to their assigned places.
- † Bread ministers say, “The Body of Christ”, cup ministers say, “The Blood of Christ”. The communicant should say “Amen” for each. If they do not say “Amen” you may say it for them.
- † After offering the cup, wipe the edge and turn it ¼ turn. In case of spills, use the purificator to soak it up.
- † Many children and some adults do not receive communion. Those who approach with their arms crossed over their chest should receive a simple blessing such as “May the Lord bless you and keep you” while signing a cross on their forehead. There is no need for cup

ministers to administer this blessing. If you are unsure whether a child is to receive communion, look to the parent or simply ask the child.

- † Communion by intinction (dipping) is not allowed in the Roman rite. Rather than refuse the blood, cover the cup with your hand and say, “Please allow me to do that for you”. Take the host from their hand, dip it in the wine and say, “The Body and Blood of Christ”. Then, using the cup as a paten (to catch any drips) place the host on the communicants’ tongue.
- † Depending on the circumstances, one bread minister may be directed by an usher to take communion to individuals in the congregation who cannot come up on their own. Father or Barb will give communion to the choir. Cup ministers on the choir side should also stay and administer to the choir.
- † Cup ministers should consume the rest of the wine in their cups before moving from their places. If you cannot consume all the wine yourself, offer the cup to another minister. The Precious Blood is never to be poured out.
- † Bread ministers should meet Father at the altar. He will put the remaining hosts in the ciborium and give ministers the patens to be taken to *credence table behind Father's chair*.
- † When finished, cup ministers should place the cups on the credence table.
- † Eucharistic ministers will no longer purify the vessels. Father or Deacon Steve will do this from now on.
- † Ministers will still go to the sacristy to take off medallions and place them on the rack. Remind others to do so.
- † File out the sacristy door to the side door of the church. File in and form a line in front of the peninsula. Once everyone has stopped walking, bow in unison to the altar, then return to your seats.
- † If you know ahead of time that you will not be able to serve on your assigned day, please try to get a replacement.

Thank you for your willingness to serve in the ministry of the Eucharist.