

GUIDELINES FOR EUCHARISTIC MINISTERS

SS. John and Paul Parish

EUCHARISTIC MINISTER'S PRAYER

*Gracious Lord, you nourish me with the body and blood of your Son,
that I might have eternal life.*

*As I give the bread of heaven and the cup of salvation to your faithful people,
may the saving mysteries lead me to the joys of eternal life.*

The Catechism of the Catholic Church teaches, "The Eucharist is a sacrifice of thanksgiving to the Father, a blessing by which the Church expresses her gratitude to God for all his benefits, for all that he has accomplished through creation, redemption and sanctification" (CCC 1360).

Catholics actively participate in the Eucharist as the source and summit of their Christian life. This active participation manifests itself by:

- Gathering with a community of believers each Sunday and holy day
- Praying together at Mass in word, gesture and song
- Listening together to God's word
- Giving thanks and praise to God together for the gifts of creation, and in a special way, for the gift of Jesus Christ – his life, death and resurrection
- Sharing in and becoming the Body of Christ through receiving Eucharist at Mass

Catholics believe that through active participation in the Mass and in a special way, through the reception of Holy Communion at Mass, they are filled with the real presence of Christ, and are therefore sent to be Christ's presence in the world until he comes again in glory.

Through baptism, we live out our lives as being followers of Christ. As Eucharistic Ministers we respond to the call of the spirit to use our gifts in service to the Parish. In accepting this position, we are challenged to "be examples of Christian living in faith and conduct. You must strive to grow in holiness through this sacrament of unity and love. Remember that though many, we are one body because we share the one bread and one cup."

SOME GENERAL INFORMATION:

- Except in an emergency, a liturgical minister may perform only one liturgical ministry at a time at Mass. Thus, if you are called to minister as a Eucharistic Minister, you may not also perform the function of a lector or an usher at the same Mass
- Be reliable. Each Eucharistic Minister is responsible for serving when scheduled. Please be courteous: if you cannot serve when assigned, please arrange for a substitute
- Dress "UP" neatly and conservatively. (Flip-Flops, tennis shoes, sun dresses, tank tops, T-shirts, low-cut tops, shorts, and blue jeans are inappropriate for Sunday Mass.)
- Eucharistic Ministers are requested to be in Church ten minutes before Mass begins and to participate fully in the Liturgy (responding and singing)
- At the Sign of Peace Eucharistic Ministers come forward and stand on the side of the tabernacle. (At St. John Church, over by the Baptismal Font Northwest side and at St. Paul Church, over by the tabernacle on the Northeast side. Both Churches: on the floor. If you kneel, please use the step.) Once the presider has started to consume the host, please come into the sanctuary. Before taking your first step, please bow as a group before entering the sanctuary
- After the presider has received Eucharist, he will distribute the Body of Christ to the Eucharistic Ministers. The chalices will be given to the Eucharistic Ministers who are responsible for distributing the Precious Blood. These Eucharistic Ministers then gives the chalice to each of the remaining Eucharistic Ministers.
- Please wait until everyone in the sanctuary has received Eucharist to proceed down to the aisle. **At St. John Church, there will be two additional Eucharistic Ministers assigned each week. One minister of the host and one minister of the cup will distribute communion to the musicians and to**

those throughout the church who are unable to come forward for Communion.

- When ministering the Body and Blood of Christ, allow time for the individual to bow, make eye contact with the person receiving and say: “Body of Christ” or “Blood of Christ”.
- Do not call someone by name when they come forward to receive. Unless you know everyone in line, it can be offensive and rude.
- **IMPORTANT NOTE:** If any consecrated wine is spilled on the floor at any time, cover that spot immediately with your purificator and make sure that no one walks on that spot. You will have to get another purificator before proceeding. At the end of Mass stand nearby to prevent anyone from stepping on that area until it is purified by soaking up all that you can and by rinsing with water until water is clear. Remember: accidents do happen.
- If you drop a host, simply pick it up and give it to the presider once Communion is over. He will consume it.
- Many children and some adults do not receive communion. Those who approach with their arms crossed over their chest should receive a simple blessing by placing your hand over them and saying “May God bless you”. Please do not say “May God bless you in the name of the Father...”
- Cup Distributors: After distributing from the cup, walk to the credence table, place the chalice on the corporal and then return to your place. If there is Precious Blood left in the chalice, consume the contents if you are able. If you are unable to consume the Precious Blood, place the chalice on the credence table and the presider will consume it. If the chalice is empty before the distribution of communion is finished, take the chalice to the credence table and return to your pew. Place the purificator on top of the chalice – **DO NOT** place the purificator in the cup.
- Host Distributors: Place the ciborium in the tabernacle. If it is easy to do so, please combine the hosts and bring the empty ciborium to the credence table

- **IMPORTANT NOTE: IF DEACON BOB GLASER IS PRESENT, HE IS AN ORDINARY MINISTER OF THE PRECIOUS BLOOD!**

Gracious God, you gather us around the banquet table to taste and see your goodness and great love. Teach us to cherish the paschal mystery, the dying and rising of your Son, Jesus. Bless us as we share the Bread of Life and the Cup of Salvation with those who long to be united with you. Increase the gifts of grace in us so that we may freely share them with all through Christ our Lord....Amen