

Eucharistic Ministry Guidelines

Revised 10/21/2019

By baptism, we are all made members of the Body of Christ. These guidelines attempt to give an overview of the specific duties of a Eucharistic Minister at the Corpus Christi. To participate in this ministry, you should have completed all the sacraments through Confirmation. Contact Sue Valois in the parish center for training. You may choose which reoccurring week of the month and Mass you would like to be scheduled. There will also be the possibility of filling in as needed.

Arrive for your ministry 10-15 minutes before Mass. When you arrive, check in with the Mass Coordinator. Best practice would be to wear one of the Eucharistic Cross necklaces to signify you are participating in this ministry. This will ensure that there are enough Eucharistic ministers for each Mass. Knowing that you are participating; you should be appropriately dressed in footwear that will not be potentially hazardous, such as flip flops or very high heels.

Immediately after the greeting of peace, when the music for the "Lamb of God" begins, go to the credence table and place a small dot of hand sanitizer on your hands subtly coating your hands. Go up to stand behind the presider at the altar. The presider will distribute Eucharist and wine to each. Jesus is the true host of the meal and the reasoning behind receiving first is that we cannot give what we have not yet received.

Take your place in the aisles; bread ministers stand next to priest, with a space between them and two wine ministers stand to the far side and back. Wine ministers should leave a large space between them and the bread ministers to allow the flow of people waiting to receive from the cup. The Presider will have the small paten with the low gluten host and the Mass Coordinator will distribute the Gluten Free chalice.

Here are some common questions:

- Distribute to each person, making eye contact and saying only, "***The Body of Christ***" or "***The Blood of Christ***" before handing each communicant the bread or offering the wine.
- The response should be "***Amen.***"
- The musicians receive at the end of Communion. One distributor of the plate and cup stand at the opening of the main aisle facing the altar and wait to distribute as the music ends. The musicians will come up receive and circle back to the music area.
- Those holding cups should wipe the cup with the purificator (cloth) after each person receives and rotate the cup $\frac{1}{4}$ turn in preparation for the next person to drink from it. Remember "wipe and turn." Make sure to open and use all sides of the cloth.
- Ushers and the Mass Coordinator are helpful in identifying if there are any people for whom coming forward for communion would be difficult. Ministers should bring the sacred bread and offer the sacred cup. This may be done before distributing to the general assembly, or after the assembly has received.

- If for some reason someone is not receiving communion but presents themselves with their hands crossed over their chest, you may place your hand on their shoulder and say ***“Receive the love of Jesus.”*** They are in spiritual communion with us, we are not blessing them. Do not touch them on the head for sanitary reasons.
- If someone has requested a low gluten host, the presider would hold it in a small dish under his plate and when the person comes forward, he will hold out the plate and the person should remove the host so as not to cross contaminate.
- If someone has requested the gluten free chalice, the Mass Coordinator will distribute this alone off to the side of the piano.
- If a consecrated host falls to the floor, it should be placed in the palm of your hand and under the plate. When you are finished distributing you consume the fallen host.
- If some of the sacred wine spills, use the purificator (cloth) to wipe up the drops.
- If someone presents a pyx (small container) to deliver the host to the homebound, make sure they receive communion first and then ask them how many they need for their container.
- If someone presents themselves wanting to receive communion on the tongue, do your best to accommodate. Having said that, we do not allow dipping the host into the cup (intinction) or kneeling to receive. If they kneel down, kindly remind them that we stand in this community to receive.
- When your cup is empty, you may return it to the altar.
- Reminder, one set of both bread and wine will need to wait at the center aisle for the musicians to receive.
- When all have received, take the bread plate or cup and purificator to the altar. The Mass Coordinator will return the consecrated host to the tabernacle.
- Return quietly to your seat.

Thank you for your service as a Eucharistic Minister to the Body of Christ made present here at Corpus Christi! If you have any questions, please call Sue Valois at the parish center 651-846-9212.