

Extra Ordinary Ministers of the Eucharist

My commitment to being an effective Eucharistic Minister

- ▶ **Dependability** - I will be present when I am scheduled. I will arrange for a substitute if I cannot be at that Mass or if I feel ill or have a cold. I will have an attitude of service, helping St. Wenceslaus Church be a place where people can contact the living God.
- ▶ **Punctuality** - I will be on time, meaning at least 10 minutes before the start of Mass.
- ▶ **Competence** - I will be prepared for my ministry. I will know what I am doing, and I will do it well. I will accept in good spirit reasonable and regular evaluation of my ministry.
- ▶ **Consistency** - I will strive to be a more caring, generous, sharing person in my daily living, consistent with my awareness of the presence of Jesus Christ in the Eucharist and in His people.

Eucharist Ministry Guidelines

Preparation Before Mass:

- ▶ Be groomed and dressed appropriately for this reverent ministry.
- ▶ Be at Church **at least 10 minutes** before Mass begins.
- ▶ It is recommended that you sit in one of the first 4 pews and by the main aisle. When you walk from and to your pew, keep your two hands together against your chest pointing upwards (observe how the altar servers do this).

Preparing to Share Holy Communion:

- † **NOTE:** The Presider brings the ciborium from the tabernacle to the altar. **If he does not, the Body of Christ Minister** will do this as follows: reverently walk up to the tabernacle during the Lamb of God; bow or genuflect; open the tabernacle; remove the ciborium; reverently take the ciborium to the altar; proceed to the front of the altar as described below.
- † **All Eucharistic Ministers:** During the Lamb of God, walk reverently toward the altar, stopping before the first step into the sanctuary facing the altar; bow to the Lord who is present in the Eucharist on the altar; keep your two hands together against your chest pointing upwards; remain there to receive Holy Communion.
NOTE: You should **not** have to go up into the sanctuary. If you have a cold, or are otherwise concerned about contaminated hands, you should get a substitute minister. Hand sanitizer has been placed on the front pew on the choir side.
- † After the Presider distributes Holy Communion to the altar servers and Eucharistic Ministers, he will hand the **Blood of Christ Ministers** a chalice, and the **Body of Christ Minister** a ciborium.
- † **All** go to their positions for the distribution of Holy Communion to the assembly. Notice if any communicants are unable to leave their pews and need you to go to them first.

Sharing the Body of Christ:

- † Watch the communicant approach; attempt to make eye contact; be aware of their hands as this is an indication if they will receive in them or on the tongue.
- † Raise the host, look at it and the communicant and clearly pronounce: ***The Body of Christ.***
- † After the communicant responds Amen, place the host into his/her hands or on his/her tongue.
- † Repeat this process for each communicant.
- † After distribution, go to the front center of the altar and hand the ciborium to the Presider who will bring it to the altar. Wait for the other Eucharistic Ministers to join you, then all bow and reverently return to your place in the assembly.

NOTE: The Presider will combine the extra hosts into one ciborium and return it to the tabernacle. A visiting Presider may hand the ciborium to you. If so, receive the ciborium from the Presider, reverently return it to the tabernacle, close the tabernacle doors, bow or genuflect, and return to the front center of the altar.

Sharing the Blood of Christ:

- † Watch the communicant approach; attempt to make eye contact; observe if they will need assistance with the chalice.
- † Raise the chalice, look at it and the communicant and clearly pronounce: ***The Blood of Christ.***
- † After the communicant responds Amen, hand him/her the chalice. Assist those who do not take the chalice fully into their hands.
- † Receive the chalice back from the communicant; wipe the rim with the purificator. Turn the chalice about a quarter turn for the next communicant. Discreetly unfold the purificator so you can use all the dry surfaces.
- † Repeat this process for each communicant.
- † After the last communicant has received, go to the front center of the altar, face the sanctuary and consume what remains in the chalice, if you are able. Drape the purificator over the chalice (**not inside**) and hand the chalice to an altar server, who will place it on the altar for the Presider to purify. If an altar server does not come to take the chalice, place it and the purificator on the altar and return to the front center of the altar.
- † Wait for the other Eucharistic Ministers to join you, then all bow and reverently return to your place in the assembly.

Eucharistic Ministers Prayer

Jesus, bless these hands you have chosen as your tools.
Jesus, always keep me aware and in awe of my sacred mission.
Jesus, send me out to distribute your love in our world.
Amen.

(Revised 02/2015)