

# COMMUNION ASSISTANTS (Eucharistic Ministers)

- **Check in with the Mass Steward 15 minutes before Mass.** Check in is done by marking off your name on the schedule at the front entrance of the church.
- The Mass Steward may have found a replacement if a scheduled minister arrives late. If a replacement has been found, graciously take your seat within the congregation.
- Make yourself known to Mass Stewards, especially if you are a **new minister**.
- Communion Assistants join together with the other Liturgical Ministers in the Sacristy 10 minutes before Mass for a prayer.

***If you are unable to attend on a given day, it is your responsibility to phone and find a replacement.*** (See the Ministry Contact List)

## **ENTRANCE AND RECESSIONAL PROCESSIONS:**

- Eucharistic ministers are NOT part of the entrance or recessional processions.

## **COMMUNION TIME:**

- Eucharistic ministers come forward immediately after the "**Sign of Peace**". (If fewer ministers go forward than the required number for that Mass, please go forward and be a Communion Assistant even though you are not scheduled.)
- Eucharistic ministers should be in place at the **credence (side) table**, before the end of the **Lamb of God**. All ministers symbolically wash and dry their fingers and then purify with the disinfectant provided.
- **As soon as the Lamb of God is finished, while the congregation is in the process of kneeling,** move in behind the altar so that everyone is in place before the celebrant says, "This is the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world..."
- Fr. will distribute the Body of Christ to all the Communion Ministers. **Please wait until Fr. has consumed the Body of Christ and then all Communion Ministers consume theirs together.**

## **POSITIONING FOR COMMUNION:**

- 5 Ministers are scheduled for communion.
- The first person on the schedule is to distribute the bread along with the priest and the deacon. This person is distinguished by "**C**" on the list and is referred to as the **Captain**. This person goes to the **tabernacle** immediately at the **Lamb of God** (and therefore has a "short" Sign of Peace).

- All Ministers should know who the Captain is.
- The ciborium (large chalice with a top) and glass bowl (if present) are taken and placed on the altar. The top of the ciborium is removed at the altar, and then placed on the credence table.
- **DO NOT** remove any other containers from the tabernacle.
- The Captain is positioned in the middle of the group so that the priest knows who receives the bowls.
- As we now have a Deacon assisting at most weekend masses, the Deacon is to distribute communion when he is present. If the Deacon is not present, we will require an extra Eucharistic minister to take his place in distribution of communion. This person will stand in the middle beside the Captain.
- There are usually 4 ministers of the Cup.
- At 9:00 Mass there are normally 2 or more additional ministers for Bethany Care

### **BLESSING OF CHILDREN:**

- Ministers are encouraged to bless the children and adults who have arms crossed on their chest.
- Your blessing can take the form of a blessing with the host, saying "The Blessing of Christ"-especially appropriate for the adults and older children not receiving Communion-or bless the children by touching or signing with a cross on the forehead with words such as "The Blessing of Christ or May our Lord Jesus Christ bless you..."

### **DISTRIBUTION OF COMMUNION:**

- There are three stations for distributing communion. One station is at the head of the centre aisle with a Minister of the cup on either side. There should be a significant distance between the Minister of the Body and each of the cups, to avoid congestion in the centre aisle.
- The other two stations are at the head of the side aisles. The ministers should stand off to the side to allow more room for traffic flow. On the side with the baptismal font, they should be in front of the baptismal font. On the tabernacle side, they should stand in front of the tabernacle. The priest will indicate if he is going to distribute from one of the side positions. The remaining Ministers of the Cup go to the side aisle allowing space (approximately 2 metres) between them and the Minister of the Body. Ideally the Ministers of the cup on the side and the front should be standing back to back.

### **DISTRIBUTION OF THE BREAD:**

- As Communion progresses be alert to the number of hosts in the ciborium and the number of people desiring Communion. If you feel you may not have enough, you can break the hosts in two and distribute half-hosts. There may be extra hosts on the Altar.
- The offering of the Host to the communicant is to be accompanied by the words: "**The Body of Christ**". If you know the person's name, you may use it.

- The communicant's response is to be 'Amen'. Please say 'Amen' if the response is not made as a reminder to them that this should be their response.
- The Bishop has requested that we only distribute 1 host per person. Previously people have requested a second host for someone who is not able to come for communion. We are directed now to take communion to that person. The ushers may alert you as to who these are. Also some choir members have asked for extra hosts to distribute to their members who are still playing. If choir members are not able to receive communion before they begin to play, they will receive at the end. The choirs have been given instruction on this.
- The Body of Christ must be consumed **in your presence**. Please make sure that the communicant puts the consecrated bread in their mouth.
- When all the people in your line have received, see if your help is needed elsewhere.
- When finished bring your bowl with the remaining Body of Christ and leave it on the Altar.
- The Priest (not the Deacon or the Captain) empties all remaining Body of Christ into the ciborium and a glass bowl, if needed. They are then returned to the Tabernacle by the Captain.

### **DISTRIBUTION OF THE CUP:**

- Present the cup to those desiring it with the words: "**The Blood of Christ**". Again, if you know the person's name you may use it.
- Use the purificator provided with the cup to wipe the Chalice where the communicant's lips have touched it. Be definite with this; it is not just a token gesture; the Chalice is supposed to be wiped.
- The Bishop has told us that we are no longer allowed to offer "intinction" or the dipping of the Body of Christ in the Chalice. If someone attempts to do this, just politely say we are not allowed. We will be educating the parish on this.
- When all communicants have received (or when the cup no longer contains anything of the Blood of Christ), return to the side table in the sanctuary.
- If there is still a Minister of the cup beside you and you are returning to the credence table, let that person know that you are leaving. This will allow them to serve both remaining communion lines.
- At the end of communion, **reverently** consume the Blood of Christ that remains in the cup. Pour a small amount of water into the cup from the water pitcher on the credence table; swirl the water around the cup to cleanse it. Consume this water from the cup and dry it with the purificator. Place the cup and the purificator on the credence table and return to your pew in the congregation.

**Thank you for your service!**