**Eucharistic Minister Responsibilities (updated 01.24.2020)**

1. **We do not schedule Eucharistic ministers as we do readers and greeters**. We have a “pool” of trained ministers, and count on them to step forward to take on the role as they choose before the liturgy starts. To make sure we have sufficient assistance, communion ministers take a medallion from the sacristan; when all medallions have been taken, we know we have enough ministers for that particular Mass.

2. **During the Sign of Peace, please go to the sacristy, sanitize your hands, and place the medallion back in the basket**. Then go to the side aisle (by the Mary/Jesus statue) for the prayer. You are welcome to kneel in one of the open spaces at the ends of the pews in that section, if you’d like. It is also OK to stand, if that’s more comfortable.

3. **The communion song is the signal for ministers to step forward and face the side of the altar.** You will receive communion first.

4. **The priest/deacon will assign stations as he hands you either a cup or plate. Please be ready to take either the cup or plate, without a request for one or the other.** You can move to your assigned place immediately; colored dots on the floor will guide you (yellow – Body of Christ; red – Blood of Christ) . You need not wait for all the ministers to be in place before beginning to distribute communion. For the ELDERLY and/or DISABLED, please offer communion, **host only (before the procession))**, to parishioners in the first pew of your section before distributing to the rest of your section. **Offer the cup after the procession.**

5. **Ministers of the cup should take care not to block the communion flow**. Ministers with the cup should stand facing the minister with the hosts so as not to block the aisle for those receiving just the consecrated host.

6. **DISTRIBUTION**--**Ministers of the Lord’s Body**: raise the host to the height sufficient to make eye contact, and say, "The Body of Christ." After the recipient responds "Amen" place the host in their hand or on their tongue as their body language suggests. **Ministers of the Cup**: extend the cup towards the recipient slightly and invite, "The Blood of Christ." After they respond "Amen" let them take the cup. When they return it, wipe the lip of the vessel and give it a quarter turn before the next communicant. (NOTE: *Self*-*Intinction* (i.e. taking the host and dipping the host into the precious blood) is not sanctioned. If a communicant tries to dip the host into the cup place your hand over the cup and ask them to consume the host.)

7. **For congregation members who come forward with crossed arms**, this indicates that they won’t be receiving communion but would like a blessing. Extend your arm (without making the sign of the cross) and say, “God bless you.” **Do likewise for small children**.

8. When **your section of the assembly has received, check on the other ministers, and if appropriate, assist them.** If your vessels are empty, return them to the small (credence) table behind the altar (but ***please fold your purificator, rather than stuff it in the chalice***). If you have hosts remaining please take them to the altar. If you have precious blood remaining please take the cup to the credence table. If you approach the altar with a vessel, **the priest may ask you to assist in distributing the Eucharist to the musicians**. (IMPORTANT: All plates with the hosts MUST be brought to the altar first before going to the musicians. The priest or deacon will consolidate the hosts and put enough hosts on another plate and ask a distributor to take consolidated plate to the musicians). To minister to the musicians, please stand in the area behind the altar on the musicians’ side. After that, return your vessels to the credence table.

9. **WHAT TO DO WHEN THINGS GO WRONG**

* If the Precious Blood is spilled on someone’s clothing or person, give your purificator to him/her to wipe it off.
* If the Precious Blood spilled on the floor, put your purificator over it and stand in a position so that people walk around it. After the communion procession, please tell Father that the Precious Blood was spilled. Immediately after the priest processes out of the main worship space, stand over the spill so people do not trample through the precious blood as the exit the church.
* If a host is dropped, *immediately stop distributing* and pick it up and eat it. DO NOT STEP ON THE HOST OR MOVE IT WITH YOUR FOOT!
* If you’re a “germaphobe”, Eucharistic Ministry is not for you.
* A Eucharistic Minister should be both willing and able to offer both the body and blood of Christ. (For example, if your arm is in a sling, or you are unable to bend down to the floor while holding a plate level in your hand, don’t volunteer!)