Eucharistic Minister Responsibilities (updated 9.10.2019)

1. We do not schedule Eucharistic ministers as we do readers and greeters. We need so many of them (at least 36 spread out over all Sunday liturgies) that keeping up with who can and who can’t make their date would be a nightmare. Instead, 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 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 line up between the ambo and the altar (which is closer to the center than ministers have been in the past). You will receive communion first.

4. The presider 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 – host/body; red – wine/blood) . 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 and cup (before the procession), to parishioners in the first pew of your section before distributing to the rest of your section.

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: *Intinction* is sanctioned for special circumstances – not for general distribution, but we will have visitors who do it in their home parishes. Wipe the entire rim of the cup if someone dips their host.)

7. For congregation members who come forward with crossed arms, indicating that they won’t be receiving communion but would like a blessing. Extend your arm and administer a brief blessing, “God’s blessing upon 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 table behind the altar (but *please fold your purificator, rather than stuff it in the chalice*). If you have consecrated elements remaining, take them to the altar and leave your vessels there. We’re instructed by the Church to leave consecrated hosts and wine for consumption of clergy, but they may ask you to help consume whatever is left. If you approach the altar with a vessel, the priest may ask you to assist in distributing the Eucharist 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 small (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.
* If a host is dropped, pick it up and eat it.
* 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, don’t volunteer!)