

Eucharistic Minister Training – St. Mary

Do everything slowly and with reverence!

I. IMMEDIATE PREPARATION

1. Please be at the church 15 minutes beforehand.
2. Please sign in on the sheet at the entryway to the church.

II. COMING FORWARD AND DISTRIBUTION OF HOLY COMMUNION

1. Please come forward during the Sign of Peace, not at the end. Come to the center aisle, in front of the first row of pews and bow to the altar. Go to your assigned places behind the Altar. We are not scheduling additional ministers for the overflow in the Hall on RE Sundays. Father will mention if extra ministers are needed for the overflow in the Social Hall; please come forward to assist.
2. The Host Minister goes to the side table and retrieves the extra communion plate (or gold ciborium) and places it on the altar. Go to your place behind Father at the front of the chair platform. The cup ministers should stand behind Father at the front of the platform, with the altar servers to their right. When Deacon Terry is at the altar at Mass, he will be a Host Minister, so there should only be 2 other Ministers of the Eucharist.
3. After the Lamb of God has been sung, Father will distribute hosts to the altar servers and Eucharistic Ministers. Hold your host until Father returns to the altar and consumes his host. That is the signal for you to consume your host.
4. Father will then offer the Sacred Cup to two of you, or to one of you with the Deacon offering the cup to the other minister. Host and cup ministers, look to see if there are people with walkers or wheelchairs and approach them to offer communion

--The Host Minister, after receiving from the cup, waits for the priest to offer the communion plate and then go along with the priest, to offer the Body of Christ to the assembly along side the priest, to his right. Father will wait to distribute to the assembly until all on the altar have received the cup.

--The Cup Ministers closest to the altar servers, in turn offers the Sacred Cup to them, and then proceeds to one's place to the right of the altar for distribution of Communion to the assembly.

--The Cup Minister on the left side should proceed to one's place to the left of the altar (Cry room) to allow enough room for people to line up and not interfere with the Host Minister.

--Cup ministers should position themselves so as to allow those **not** receiving from the Cup to be able to return to their pews.

When distributing the Body and/or Blood of Christ, **look the communicants in the eye. THIS IS A FAITH MOMENT.**

5. If a host falls, the Host Minister needs to pick up the host, place it in the palm of one's hand and continue distributing Communion. At the conclusion of distributing Communion, the Host Minister discreetly consumes the consecrated host at the altar.
6. Host Ministers are encouraged to bless the children not receiving the Eucharist as they come forward. The following may be said, while making the sign of the cross over the child, "May Almighty God bless you now and forever."
7. After each communicant has received, the Cup Minister wipes the Sacred Cup with the purificator, turning the Sacred Cup before offering it to the next communicant. Know how you will present the cup and how you want to receive it back. Be cautious of the young and frail; but not overly cautious.
8. During communion do not turn people away. If there is a situation, inform Fr. Dan or Deacon Terry and they will quietly try to resolve the issue.

III. POST COMMUNION

1. The Host Minister returns to the altar. The priest will combine the remaining hosts into one plate and will give the Host Minister the plate with consecrated hosts to be taken to the tabernacle and the hosts are added to the reserve in the ciborium. Return the empty plate to the credence table. If there are only a few hosts left, Father may consume them or ask you to assist in consuming them at the credence table. Go directly back to your seat and do not bow at the foot of the altar.
2. The Cup Ministers are to take the cups back to the credence table. Consume the remaining Precious Blood at the credence table if you are able to do so. Father or the Deacon will brush any fragments from the plates into the remaining precious blood and consume it or ask the Cup Ministers to consume it. The priest or Deacon will rinse the cups with water from the cruet and consume the contents, and the cup placed back on the credence table, covered by the purificator. Go directly back to your seat and do not bow at the foot of the altar.

IV. AFTER MASS

1. Please go to the Sacristy and wash the vessels with soap and water, dry them and place them on the counter. Directions are above the sink.
2. The schedule indicates who is assigned as the Ministers of the Eucharist. Please find and secure a substitute if you are not able to attend at a time you are scheduled. You are encouraged to be considerate and flexible if someone asks you substitute for them.

To serve as a Eucharistic minister is an honor and blessing! You become an active part of the liturgy by helping the community to celebrate the Paschal Mystery of Christ to His people. Please honor your scheduled times to serve by being on time and prepared. Be sure you have someone to take your place if you can not be there to serve the community.