

People from other Faiths

We encourage full and active participation among those who worship with us. Because Catholics believe that the celebration of the Eucharist is a sign of the reality of the oneness of faith, life and worship, members of those churches with whom we are not yet fully united are ordinarily not admitted to Holy Communion. In the spirit of Christ's invitation we invite those who worship with us to come forward at Communion and for those who are unable to receive to cross their arms over their chest and receive a blessing from the priest or Communion Minister. Simply look at the person and say "God bless you," but do not make the sign of the cross. This procedure can be used for small children as well.

Cleansing of Vessels

To save time, Father asks that ALL Eucharistic Ministers do this. The cleansing can be done immediately after Mass. Please be sure all precious blood is consumed before leaving your chalice on the credence table. After Mass, all Communion ministers will assist by taking the vessels to the sink in the sacristy. Please do a first rinse to make sure no wine or Eucharist particles are left in the vessels. Fill the sink with hot, soapy water. Wash the vessels and then rinse them with warm water. Dry the vessels and place them in the cupboard again for the next Mass. Please do not submerge the chalices.

Mishaps

If the Communion Minister or the communicant drops a host, calmly lift it from the floor, and consume it. If the Blood of Christ is spilled, reassure the communicant and ask those who are waiting to move on. Then go to the sacristy and find a towel. Return to your position and soak up the precious blood as well as possible, then leave the soiled towel on the countertop. The priest will take care of the rest.

Substitutes

Communion Ministers are responsible for contacting their own substitutes. The substitute should be aware not only of which Mass to attend, but also of the responsibility of washing cups, bowls, and pitcher after Mass.

Handbook for Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion



*Holy Family Parish
2021*

Directions

1. Communion Ministers should arrive early and spend time in prayer, preparing for this important ministry. Check in at the vesting sacristy when arriving. They will seat themselves with the rest of the assembly.
2. As leaders in the community, and especially within the liturgical community, Communion Ministers will, of course, fully participate in the Mass, dress appropriately and thus provide a fitting example for the rest of the assembly. Please wash your hands before Mass and do not wash them during the Lamb of God.
3. **Because of the number of cups to fill, the person designated to fill the cups is asked to COME FORWARD** at the end of the Lord's Prayer before the sign of peace and begin pouring. The remaining Communion Ministers will come to the sanctuary and stand near the altar. All Eucharistic Ministers are asked to purify their hand with the solution on the credence table. Since the sign of peace is finished, do not shake hands with the servers, etc. The Priest Celebrant will retrieve consecrated hosts from the tabernacle if needed.
4. After the Priest Celebrant receives Communion, he will then distribute the Body of Christ to all Communion Ministers. Then he will distribute the Blood of Christ to Communion Ministers. Those distributing chalices should stand forward right away so the priest knows who is to get them. Those distributing hosts should stand directly behind the priest. Those who receive a chalice should then offer it to the host distributors. The Priest Celebrant will give the bowls with the Hosts to ministers a few moments later.
5. The minister distributing the Body of Christ holds up the host for the communicant to see and says "The Body of Christ." The communicant responds "Amen" and the minister then gives the communicant the host by placing it on the tongue or in the hand, according to the preference of the communicant. Please do not use any other words than these, and do not address the communicant by name. Be prepared for other responses than "Amen," however inappropriate. Take Communion under both forms to the music ministers at the end of the procession. If you run out of hosts during the Communion procession, seek out additional hosts from another distributor. If you have extra hosts, take them to another distributor who may need them.
6. The minister distributing the Blood of Christ presents the chalice saying, "The Blood of Christ," to which the communicant responds "Amen," and the minister hands the cup to the communicant. When each person has drunk from it, the minister then wipes the rim of the

- chalice and turns it a 1/2 turn before offering it to the next communicant. The purificator is best thought of as a napkin. Therefore, unwrap it fully and use the whole of it. If you run out of the Precious Blood prior to the end of the procession, return your chalice to the credence table and return to your pew.
7. After the Communion procession, those distributing the Blood of Christ will return to the credence table. Consume any remaining Blood of Christ, with your back to the assembly. If you cannot do so kindly ask one of the other ministers to help you. There should be no Blood of Christ remaining after the Communion procession. Then place your empty chalice and purificator on the table and return to your pew. Kindly stack the purificators, if possible, to save space.
 8. After the Communion procession, if Hosts remain, place the bowl on the altar and return to your pew. If your bowl is empty, return it to the credence table and then return to your pew. The Priest Celebrant will consolidate the hosts into the ciboria. The Priest Celebrant may ask you to take the consecrated hosts back to the tabernacle.
 9. If there are homebound ministers at a Mass they will be lined up in front of the altar. The Presider then gives them the pyx and host and says a brief blessing.

Homebound Eucharistic Ministry

Place your pyx on the altar before Mass and tell the Priest Celebrant how many hosts you need. If you are serving as a minister of Communion at the Mass, after you have finished distributing, stand in front of the altar. Once the Communion procession ends, the song is finished, and the hosts have been Consolidated into the ciborium, and the vessels cleansed, the Priest Celebrant Will give you the pyx. If a homebound minister is not distributing Communion, as the Communion procession is finishing, come forward and stand in front of the altar. After the Priest Celebrant gives you the pyx remain standing until he says a brief prayer. Once the prayer is completed, you may leave immediately and take Communion to your assigned person/s, or you may stay for the rest of the Mass. Pyxes should be cleaned periodically with water, which is then consumed. If you borrow a pyx from the church, please return it before the next Sunday so that we have enough.

Unscheduled Eucharistic Ministers

If you are not scheduled to minister but see that there are not sufficient Ministers during the Lamb of God, please come forward to assist. You could also volunteer with the Master of Ceremonies before Mass.