

# **GUIDELINES FOR COMMUNION MINISTERS**

**(Fall 2016)**

- 1) Communion Ministers is a scheduled ministry. Schedules are produced on average every 2 months and are available to be picked up from the mailbox on the vestry door and can be viewed on our parish website [www.stvitalparish.ca](http://www.stvitalparish.ca)
- 2) Please arrive at least 10 minutes before Mass. You need to indicate on the posted schedule in the vestry which distribution position you will be (see diagram on reverse). ***Please do not sign-up for a position any earlier than the Mass you are scheduled for.***
- 3) **Communion Ministers are asked to please dress appropriately. Please see attached Dress code.**
- 4) At the sign of peace, the 5 communion ministers will proceed to the front of the sanctuary where they will bow in unison. **If you are not scheduled but see that there is a shortage of ministers, please proceed forward at this time.**
- 5) The ministers of the bread will approach to the right of the altar, and will make use of the hand sanitizer. The ministers of the chalice will approach to the left of the altar and do not need to use the hand sanitizer. Please remain standing at the bottom of the stairs until Father has consumed the Eucharist. Then you may proceed up the stairs to receive.
- 6) Father will distribute the bread and then the wine to the minister on his immediate right. That minister will then be given the chalice and will distribute to the other communion ministers (behind Father).
- 7) **For those distributing the bread and the cup are to ensure that the altar servers are given it at their spots. All others are to proceed to their designated location.**
- 8) Please make sure you stand in the proper position (see attached chart).

- 9) If someone comes forward with their hands over their chest it is a sign that you are to give them a blessing. The minister will place their hand on the parishioners shoulder and say *God Bless*. (only a priest or deacon may impart a blessing on behalf of the Church)
- 10) Should a minister of the chalice 'run out' before the distribution of communion is finished, they are to leave their spot, place the empty chalice on the credence table, and wait there for the other communion ministers. Should there be any precious blood remaining, the minister can either consume the rest or leave it for Father to consume.
- 11) After communion is distributed, please place the ciborium in front of the tabernacle where Father will consolidate and place it in the tabernacle. Ministers of the Body of Christ may cleanse your fingers in the bowls provided. Chalices are to be taken to the credence table (they will be purified after Mass by the two ministers of the cup). There is no need for the ministers of the chalice to cleanse their hands.
- 12) When leaving, genuflect (at the bottom of the stairs of the altar) to the tabernacle in unison as Father genuflects, then leave the sanctuary together. There is no need to turn, bow, genuflect, etc....when stepping down out of the sanctuary.
- 13) After Mass, the two communion ministers who distributed from the chalice are asked to purify the vessels (the paten, ciborium and chalice) that were used for the distribution of communion. We now ask that all items be taken into the sacristy to be purified. Begin by consuming any remaining precious blood from the chalices. Take the paten and pour any crumbs from it into one of the ciboria. Pour water (from the cruet) into the ciborium and swirl it around, then pour that water into the next ciborium and swirl it around. Do this until all of the ciboria and chalices have been rinsed, then consume (drink) the water from the last chalice. Take one of the purificators and wipe (dry) each vessel. **THERE IS A CHART IN THE SACRISTY THAT SHOWS YOU PICTURES OF WHAT EACH OF THESE VESSELS AND LINENS LOOK LIKE.**
- 14) **Father will explain how to respond to any spilled precious blood.**

## **HOW TO PURIFY THE VESSELS AFTER MASS**

After Mass, the two communion ministers who distributed from the chalice are asked to return to the credence table to purify the vessels (the paten, ciborium and chalice) that we used for the distribution of communion.

Begin by consuming any remaining precious blood from the chalices.

Take the paten and pour any crumbs from it into one of the ciborium's.

Pour water (from the cruet) into the ciborium and swirl it around, then pour that water into the next ciborium and swirl it around. Do this until all of the ciborium's and chalices have been rinsed, then consume (drink) the water from the last chalice.

Take one of the purificators and wipe (dry) each vessel. The vessels and purificators are to be left on the credence table.

# Dress Code for Liturgical Ministers at the Altar

Mass, the celebration of the Eucharist, is the source and summit of all we are and do as Catholics. We believe that Christ is truly present in the Eucharist, nourishing and endowing us with the Grace needed not only to become like Christ but also continue His saving work. As Liturgical Ministers, we must show by example, our respect and reverence for the Eucharist while performing our Liturgical duties.

The Catechism of the Catholic Church states: "*The Mass is at the same time, and inseparably, the sacrificial memorial in which the sacrifice of the cross is perpetuated and the sacred banquet of communion with the Lord's body and blood is made present,*" (CCC #1382). The Catechism also highlights the need to show outwardly what we understand inwardly, about exactly what is happening at Mass. "*Bodily demeanor (gestures, clothing, attitudes) ought to convey the respect, solemnity, and joy of this moment when Christ becomes our guest*" (CCC #1387).

Your attire should demonstrate your appreciation of how your role fits within the worship experience. Dress should express respect and reverence for the sacred mysteries that are being celebrated. Clothing that is too casual or flamboyant can also distract the congregation from where their focus should be, on the Liturgy of the Word and the Liturgy of the Eucharist. With this in mind, all Liturgical Ministers either serving in the church or outside of the church (eg. Minister to the Sick) are respectfully requested to follow the dress code:

## Women

- Professional/modest attire
- Dress, skirt, dress pants, no jeans or shorts
- No halter or tube tops, or leggings
- No sleeveless, low-cut straps –a sweater or jacket should be worn over sleeveless blouses while ministering the Eucharist

## Men

- Collared shirt, jacket or sweater
- Dress pants, no jeans or shorts
- Closed shoes and socks, no athletic shoes or sandals

## ALL

- Please no athletic shoes, flip flops, etc.
- No jeans, shorts or sweat pants
- No sweatshirts, t-shirts or tank-tops