

Eucharistic Minister Responsibilities

Thank you for your willingness to serve our St. Elizabeth's Community. We all share in the Priesthood of Jesus Christ by our Baptism but you are able to exercise this Priesthood in a particular way by helping distribute the body and Blood of the Lord, His living reality, to your sisters and brothers. The following guidelines are to help us do this reverently and well.

Eucharistic Ministers Duties:

- At the BEGINNING of the sign of peace come forward to the altar (this way Fr. John can participate in the sign of peace with you). Before approaching the altar you should gently bow towards the altar to show reverence. One of the E.M.'s should go to the tabernacle to take the ciborium with extra hosts in it and place it on the altar. Then go behind the altar and offer the sign of peace to the servers, other E.M.'s and to the priest., then you may use hand sanitizer if needed.
- Do not partake in the host until after the priest has partaken of his.
- When the priest hands off the chalice of wine to you say "Amen", take the purificator and wine from the priest, then partake in the wine,
- Offer wine to the servers.
- Take note as to whether or not there is a parishioner on your side that is unable to come forward for communion. Follow Fr. John if he is giving communion to someone unable to come forward to receive communion, offer the cup.
- If you run out of wine return to behind the altar and place chalice on altar with the purificator on top of the chalice. Wait by side table for the other E.M. to come up.
- Be ready for Fr. John to hand off the host to you to put on the altar if he needs to so that he has a free hand to use the railing with.
- The E.M. distributing wine will finish the wine in their chalice if you are comfortable doing so, if there is too much you may offer some to the other E.M. or Fr. John to finish, then hand the cup to Fr. John.
- One of the Eucharistic Ministers should hand the carafe with water in it to Fr. John.
- Fr. John will then purify the chalices and will hand one of the Eucharistic ministers the remaining host to place in the tabernacle. Place the hosts in the tabernacle, close the tabernacle, then genuflect or bow again and return to the side of the altar by the other EM.
- Fr. John will hand the **purified** chalices to EM who will then place it on the side table.
- Leave the altar. When at the front pews turn and bow (along with the other E.M.) gently towards the Tabernacle, then return to your seat.

A note on terms: a "corporal" is a square white cloth put on the altar on which the bread and wine are placed to be consecrated; a "purificator" is the folded cloth used to wipe one's mouth or the chalice; a "finger towel" is a cloth used to dry the priest's hands after he washes them. The same cloth should not be used for both towel and purificator, at least at the same liturgy.

Note also that for simplicity's sake the language below speaks of "hosts" and "wine" even after the consecration. But we Catholics believe that Jesus Christ is then really present; so much so that the hosts are described as "His sacred body", the wine "His precious blood". Our attitude of reverence in handling Christ's body and Blood will help communicate this to our sisters and brothers, particularly the children.

Revised 9/19/17