

# Holy Trinity Parish

## Guide for Extraordinary Ministers of Communion



It is a privilege to give Eucharist to those who gather to receive the gift of Jesus Christ in the form of bread and wine. As leaders of service and worship at St Matthew we become public figures to whom others look. People will notice reverence in the sanctuary, care of the vessels and respectful and gracious giving of the Sacrament.

### **BEFORE MASS**

Please arrive at the church 15 minutes before the liturgy is to begin. We ask this so that you will have sufficient time to prepare yourself prayerfully for the ministry which you will exercise. Be sure the sacristan or lector is aware of your presence.

Appropriate attire is required. The "dressed down" look has its place but not in the liturgy. One must be aware that short skirts, tight pants, shirts with logos and brief tops are improper attire. Please remove overcoats, etc. before entering the sanctuary in winter time.

Be committed. If you cannot minister on your scheduled date, it is your responsibility to find a replacement. Look ahead to vacation times and notify the parish office when you cannot serve.

## **LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST**

Immediately following the Sign of Peace, all ministers should proceed to the sanctuary.

The presider will go to the tabernacle, genuflect and retrieve the ciborium with consecrated hosts.

After the sign of peace, the second cup minister should take the carafe containing the Precious Blood and carefully pour the Precious Blood into cups during the singing of "Lamb of God," using the purificator to prevent spillage. All other ministers should take their places on each side the altar.

After the presider takes Holy Communion he will offer the Eucharistic bread to each minister. The ministers consume the consecrated host immediately.

The presider will then offer the chalice to each minister. A minister who chooses not to take the Precious Blood should cross his/her hands over the chest.

The presider will give a ciborium to the host minister who will then go to the center aisle beside the presider. One cup minister goes to the right side aisle to offer the cup to the assembly and the other to the left side aisle.

Host ministers should hold the host at eye level, make eye contact and slowly say, "the Body of Christ".

The cup ministers reverently offer the cup to each person and with eye contact slowly say, "the Blood of Christ." Generally, the communicant should hold the chalice firmly in both hands and drink from it. However, when and where necessary, the minister should be ready to assist in holding the cup. Intinction (dipping the host in the Precious Blood) is not allowed.

After each person has received the Blood of Christ, the minister should wipe both sides of the rim of the cup with a purificator and turn the cup slightly before repeating the procedure for the next communicant. Unfold the purificator so that you can use all parts of it and not just one section.

Any danger of spilling the Precious Blood should be carefully avoided. If, by chance it should spill, the area should be marked with a purificator and washed after Mass. The water used to purify this area will be properly disposed of by the sacristan.

If a communion cup is empty at any point during the Communion Rite, the minister should cover the cup, return to the credence table and wait for the other minister. The cup ministers should consume any consecrated wine while at the credence table and place the cups on the table. Do not do this at your aisle place or while walking across the sanctuary.

At the end of the Communion Rite, the presider will purify the vessels, combine the remaining consecrated hosts in the ciborium, return the ciborium to the tabernacle and genuflect. Ministers will then leave the sanctuary in unison, bow and return to their seats.

### **AFTER MASS**

Following the liturgy, return to the sacristy and wash each purified vessel (presider's chalice, two cups and carafe) with a tap water.

Place the vessels on the work counter in the sacristy for the next Mass or place in the sacristy storage cabinet. Do not set the vessels on the credence table.

Place soiled towels and purificators in the cloth bag hanging from the cabinet door.

### **SPECIAL SITUATIONS**

When a guest priest is presiding, review the procedures ahead of time with him so he is aware of your routine and comfortable with it. Parishes and presiders will differ slightly in the way the Communion Rite is celebrated and it is important that the presider's wishes are respected.

If you are a Minister of Care to the sick and homebound, please learn and observe the procedures for receiving, carrying and distributing Eucharist to those who cannot be part of the Sunday assembly. Your ministry head has diocesan policies and guidelines for this purpose.

In the absence of a priest or deacon, specially trained ministers, approved by the pastor and the bishop, may be called upon to lead the Sunday Celebration in the Absence of a Priest (SCAP).