

Notes:

Should we bless children when they come up in the communion line?

Communion time is not a blessing line but a time for receiving Jesus into our hearts. Here I encourage you to acknowledge the children in some meaningful way, by looking right at them and saying:

“Receive Jesus in your heart today.”

If people feel comfortable, in a gentle way, you may touch the heads of children when you pray over them, but do try not touching them with the tips of your fingers that are used to give out communion. It is a sign of courtesy for others.

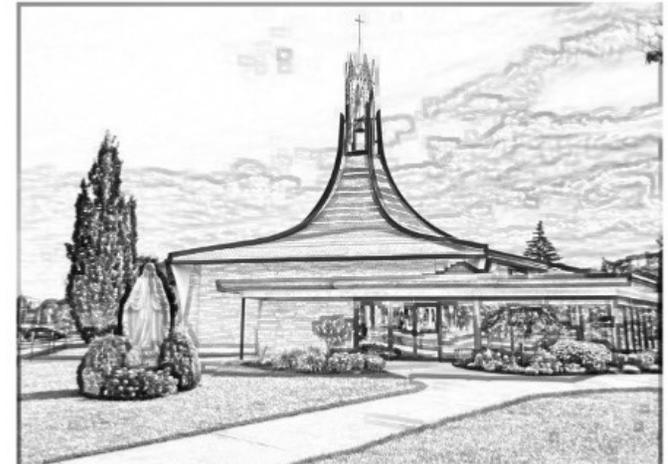
What do I do if I am running out of hosts and there are still many other recipients still in line?

We try to the best of our ability to have sufficient hosts available for all to receive. Please always keep an eye of the number of people in your line and the number of hosts you have, so that if you are running low start breaking the hosts, first in halves and then in quarters.

Chances are that everyone else is running out of hosts too!!!

Celebrating Our Faith

Eucharistic Ministers



**Holy Rosary Parish
Milton, Ontario.**

MANUAL OF PROCEDURES

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What if someone wants to receive the Body of Christ in his/her mouth?

Please note that everyone has the right to receive our Lord either on the hand or the tongue. This right is suspended only by a diocesan decree due to impending health concerns within the community.

We must remember that love for brother and sister in protecting their health precedes one's pietistic devotions.

What do I do if I drop a host or don't see someone consume the host?

Please take great care when handling the host. If it drops to the ground either consume it yourself or hold onto it and properly dispose of it after mass. Consult the priest on how to do this.

If you notice that someone has walked away without consuming the host, please stop giving out communion and communicate to others to encourage the person to consume it or else take the host back from the person.

Altar Serving

In the fullest sense of a Eucharistic Minister's ministry, he or she is a servant at the altar. It is important that the occasion may present itself, when no altar servers are present at a liturgy. It is the Eucharistic Minister's responsibility to assist the priest in all aspects of the liturgy - not just giving out communion.

If the priest needs help, please come forward to assist.

Need Help?

If you have any questions regarding procedures, please contact:

Agnes Turley

905-864-6188

agnes.turley10@gmail.com

If you are having problems finding a replacement, please notify the parish office during the weekdays at:

905-878-6535.

Introduction

First and foremost, we ask that you continue to grow in your love and respect for the REAL PRESENCE of our Lord Jesus Christ in the Holy Eucharist. Pray before the Blessed Sacrament often as you can.

Anytime that you are in the church (aside from the actual time of the Mass), continue the prayerful custom of genuflecting toward the tabernacle as a sign of your recognition of the Real Presence of Jesus Christ in the Blessed Sacrament. We genuflect as we enter the church, before we leave the church, and as we pass in front of the tabernacle.

All Catholics who receive Holy Communion should be loving people obedient to the commandments, loving God with heart and mind and soul and strength, and loving neighbour as we love ourselves. As Eucharistic Ministers we should be exemplary Catholics both in our day to day living and in our faithful presence every Sunday at the liturgy.

SECTION I:

PREPARATION FOR THE SUNDAY LITURGY

a.) PREPARATION: A Week In Advance

- Number of Eucharistic Ministers
- When asked to serve
- Proper dress attire

Number of Eucharistic Ministers

At each mass requires a minimum of **six** Eucharistic Ministers to be present unless the Deacon is present. Other celebrations may require more.

When Asked to Serve

Your schedule will be emailed to you. Please make sure we have your current email address. You can tell by your previous schedule when we will be making a new schedule. When you receive it, please place your scheduled times on your HOME CALENDAR where you schedule all your other activities (perhaps on your fridge) so that your Ministry times will be placed clearly before your eyes.

If you are unable to serve at the appointed time indicated on your schedule, please find a replacement, first from your same mass time, and if unsuccessful, then from another mass time.

Nursing or Retirement Home or Hospital Ministry

Holy Communion is brought to many of our members who are unable to attend Sunday Mass. After the announcements at the 8:30 a.m. mass, the priest will invite those who will be bringing communion to the sick to please come forward. Come forward and receive the pyx designated for your assigned ministry. Once the priest completes his prayer over you, please return to your pew.

Because of our devotion for the Blessed Sacrament, once we receive the pyx with the hosts, we should go directly to minister to the sick without any detours. Left-over hosts should be prayerfully consumed by yourself or returned to the sacristy. You must not keep the hosts in your home, car, or pocket except when going directly to this ministry.

The pyx should be purified with water, being careful not to spill any water with particles of the Blessed Sacrament.

vii.) After Distributing Communion

a.) After distributing communion, return to the altar and place your ciborium on the altar. Once it has been emptied, then return it to the back sacristy and then purify it.

If one of the smaller ciboria needs to be left behind in the tabernacle because the larger one is full, then return to your pew.

b.) Once complete purification of the vessels in the back sacristy is complete, please return to your pew.

viii.) The Recessional

Eucharistic Ministers do not process out of the church.

SECTION III

After Mass

When all is complete, please pick up any personal items before you go home.

Thank you.

Proper Dress

The dress of a Eucharistic Minister proclaims his or her respect for God's Presence in the Holy Eucharist and for the community of believers. **Simply wear "Sunday Best" attire with formal foot attire.**

Please no shorts, T-shirts, or very casual attire!

b.) PREPARATION: Immediately prior to the Mass

- Arrival at the Church
- What if I see someone missing?

Arrival at the Church

Eucharistic Ministers are asked to arrive at least **10 minutes** prior to the start of Mass. This will give you time to prepare yourself spiritually for the Mass and for the coordinator to know that you are present.

If you are not scheduled, but wish to offer your assistance if it is needed, then please check in with the coordinator. But those who are scheduled to serve have the priority to serve.

What if I notice someone is missing during mass???

If you find yourself at a Sunday Mass and you are not scheduled but notice at the “Lamb of God” that the number of Eucharistic Ministers is short people, then please come forward and assist.

SECTION II

THE SUNDAY LITURGY

Liturgical actions done well express both faith and reverence during the Sunday Liturgy. Eucharistic Ministers need to know how to do certain ritual actions well.

i.) The Entrance Procession

All masses begin with an entrance procession.

The order is as follows:

Cross

Altar Servers

Deacon or Lector #1 (With the Book of Gospels)

Lector #2

Priest(s)

Presiding Priest

Eucharistic Ministers do not Process In

vi.) Communion under both Forms

On certain occasions, such as Corpus Christi, Holy Thursday, the Easter Vigil, as well as on regular weekdays, Communion is distributed under the two forms of Bread and Wine.

When handling the chalices, please do so with great care. Offer the chalice in such a way that the person can take the chalice in both hands, for safety. Usually if you hold it by the node or stem, they can hold it with both hands on the cup part of the chalice. After they have sipped a little of the Precious Blood from the cup, take the chalice from them, again by the stem, and gently wipe both the inside and the outside of the rim with the purificator.

All the Precious Blood needs to be consumed at that Mass, so if there is a lot left over, ask the last few people in line to drink a little more than they normally would. Then, return to the credence table, and there consume the rest. You may need to ask another Minister or the priest to help you consume the rest, if there is a lot left over.

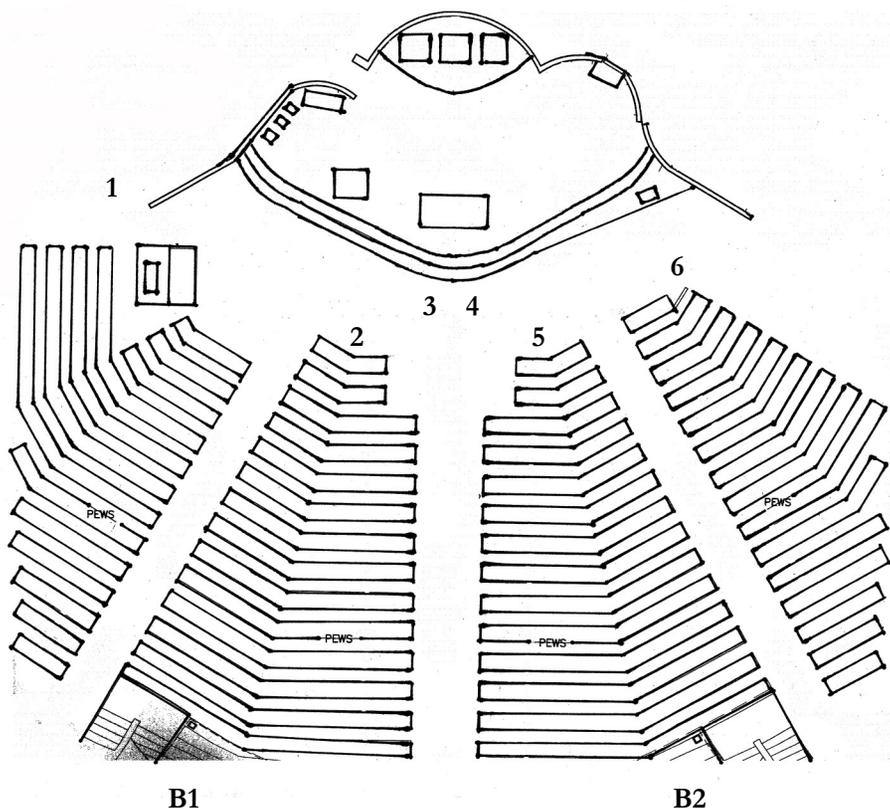
If consuming the alcohol in the Precious Blood could trigger a problem for you, just quietly ask one of the other Ministers to take care of the clean-up in this regard.

v.) Distribution of Communion

Normally, the priest will take one of the two positions in the centre aisle. The ministers are to take the other four positions. Please see diagram for the location of the four stations:

Remember: The priest may chose another station instead of the centre aisle. Please be attentive and fill in the missing stations.

Also: At Christmas and Easter celebrations, extra stations may include the Narthex.



ii.) Where to Sit

Eucharistic Ministers may wish to sit with their family members but please sit near the Sanctuary so to prevent long travel times.

If a Eucharistic Minister has to walk in front of the altar before reaching the Sanctuary, then stop before the altar, bow, and then proceed. Please follow the same respect when returning to one's pew.

iii.) Approaching the Altar

After the sign of peace the congregation will begin to sing or say the "Lamb of God".

Eucharistic Ministers are to immediately leave their pews at the Lamb of God.

The all ministers go immediately into the sanctuary, choir side, and stand beside the priest facing the altar.

b.) "To Wash or Not to Wash"

There has been some confusion over whether or not a Eucharistic Minister should wash their hands prior to giving out communion.

The ritual act of the priest washing his hands during the Mass is strictly symbolic representing the priest's need to ask God for the forgiveness of his own sins before he performs the sacrificial rite that brings about the forgiveness of sins for all people. **It must be noted that hygiene is never the intention here.**

The confusion that is created is when Eucharistic Ministers begin to wash their hands before giving out communion. Since they are not the priest and making the offering on behalf of the people, then it is safe to say that they are not duplicating the ritual act for the forgiveness of sins.

If Eucharistic Ministers are desiring to sanitize their hands for hygiene purposes, it must be noted that they may use only the hand sanitizer lotion and not the wash bowl, since the fact of pouring only water on our hands serves only to worsen our cleanliness and migrates germs more evenly across our hands.

After Communion, Eucharistic Ministers may wish to use water from the cruet in the back sacristy as you are purifying the vessel after giving out holy communion to remove any small fragments that may still be on their finger tips.

iv.) Reception of Communion

When the priest has finished receiving the Body and Blood of our Savior, he will come first to the Eucharistic Ministers to give them Communion. First, receive Communion in the form of the Host and on weekday mornings, receive the Precious Blood.

Note: When receiving from the chalice please be aware of its weightiness.

Note: There are Parishioners who are unable to receive the Body of our Lord, so they are permitted to approach the Altar and receive from the chalice or a gluten-free host.

Those to receive a gluten-free host are asked to stand opposite of the Eucharistic minister on the other side of the altar, to indicate to the presider their presence.

When all have received communion, the priest will return to the altar, retrieve the ciboria, and then give to each minister a ciborium filled with consecrated hosts.

Note: If it is your desire not to receive the Precious Blood, then merely give to the priest a slight "no" sign as an indication.