

Guidelines for Ministers of Holy Communion at Church October, 2011

Please reflect on 'YOU ARE CARRYING THE BLESSED SACRAMENT.' Do not use the vessels to point to people. The role of the Head minister (in bold) is to check to see if all assigned ministers of Holy Communion are present, if not, please get replacements if possible -for all Sunday Masses we usually need seven ministers.

1. Come to Mass 10 minutes early to greet the people, and then join the priest in a group for a short prayer before Mass.
2. Come up to altar as Sign of Peace is ending (do not continue it in sanctuary, and use the soap-less hand lotion).
3. Massage your hands until all the moisture is gone.
4. Stand in a straight line facing the altar; help the servers to be in that line too.
5. Accept whatever vessel the priest gives you. When receiving the cup offer it to the person on your left before going to the congregation.
6. There is to be one cup for each ciborium (host container) – go in pairs to the people.
7. Usually the first two to receive the vessels with the Body and Blood will go to the Children's Chapel, then distribute on the choir side.
8. Cup ministers on the choir side stand near the organ usually. The other two stand one near the baptism font, the other at the altar rail at the head of the side aisle.
9. When a host minister runs out of hosts, go to the tabernacle, leave your small ciborium there and take ~he large ciborium back to your place to continue distributing Holy Communion. Share with others who run out from your large ciborium. If a second person runs out of hosts, replenish it from the large ciborium.
10. Only return to the tabernacle when almost all the people have received.
11. When returning to the tabernacle with hosts, or to the sacristy with the remaining Precious Blood, you take precedence over the priest unless he also has the Eucharist with him; otherwise he waits for you to pass as you have the Consecrated Host or wine with you.
12. When you are carrying the Body or Blood of Christ you do not bow or make any reverence to the altar or the Cross, you have the REAL PRESENCE with you.
13. If you drop a host, please pick it up and consume it; if the Precious Blood spills use the purificator to wipe it up, and have a server get you another one.
14. The first person returning at the end of Communion to the tabernacle will remain there to receive the ciboriums from the other host ministers. After you give yours to that person, genuflect and return to your place. The one who closes the tabernacle genuflects and then returns the ciboriums and the key to the credence table.
15. Cup ministers: after you finish offering the cup to those in your line, bring your cup to the sacristy; wait for all the other cup ministers to join you, and together exit via the side door. If the tabernacle is still open, wait reverently near the wall until the tabernacle door is closed.
16. The instructions are for the congregation to be seated after the last person receives, not when the tabernacle door is closed