Communion Ministry Guidelines

General Information

Arrive at least 10 minutes before Mass begins and sign in the ministry book on the sacristy counter. There will be a total of 11 ministers, including the priest and the deacon. The deacon is to administer the cup.

Come forward at the beginning of the Lamb of God. Sanitize your hands at the credence table. Bread 1 goes to the tabernacle in the Reservation Chapel and brings the ciborium to the altar. Bread 1 and 2 stand behind the presider, and Bread 3 stands on the first step closest to the ambo.

3 wine ministers stand next to Bread 3 on the step near the ambo. The other 4 wine ministers stand on the step on the other side of the altar.

The presider will distribute to Bread 1 and 2, who will then distribute to the other ministers and altar servers. All ministers will wait until all have received and have a cup or plate. This will allow time for volunteers to come forward if there are not 11 ministers (including the deacon and priest.)

Communion Stations

Be aware of any parishioner with special needs who may not be able to participate in communion. (Look especially close for those who are not in the handicapped section.)

Cup Ministers: After each person hands you back the cup, wipe the lip (outside and inside) and turn the cup slightly. When your cup empties, return it to the credence table and return to your seat. **DO NOT PUT THE PURIFICATOR INTO THE CUP!** When everyone has received, one cup minister accompanies Bread 3 to distribute to the music ministers.

Bread Ministers: Return the plate to the altar when finished. Bread 3 will distribute to the music ministers, and Bread 1 and 2 will remain at the altar until all have received. They will then return the ciborium to the tabernacle when all leftover hosts have been placed inside it and the empty plates to the credence table. All ministers proceed to their seats.

If someone is not receiving communion, and approaches with their arms over their chest, give them a blessing instead: place your hand on their shoulder or arm and say "Jesus loves you" or "God bless you."

After Mass return to the sacristy to help with the purification (washing) of the vessels: to purify the vessels put a little water into the cup or bowl and gently and respectfully wipe them out in the sink over on the left (The Sacrarium). Then use hot soapy water to wash them out and thoroughly dry them out. (There are instructions above the sink!) **DO NOT IMMERSE THEM IN WATER!**

Work together and be willing to step in when needed and take turns purifying the vessels. Be sure to find a substitute if you cannot be present on your scheduled dates. Thank you for your participation in this essential ministry!!!

