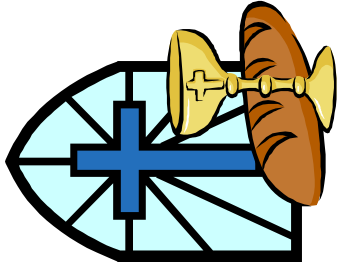
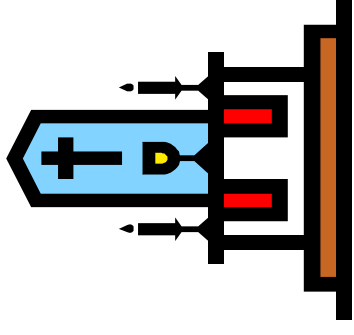


# St. Vincent de Paul Catholic Church Extraordinary Ministers of the Eucharist Renewal Training



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# ***Agenda***

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- **General Items**
  - Importance of Communion Minister Role
- **Areas of Focus**
  - Dress Reverently
  - Show Courtesy
  - Liturgy Refreshers
    - Prior to Mass
    - During Mass
    - After Mass
- **Act of Personal Recommitment**
- **Closing Comments**

# ***Importance of Communion Minister Role***

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**For as in one body we have many parts, and all the parts do not have the same function, so we, though many, are one body in Christ and individually parts of one another.**

(Romans 12: 4 – 5)

- **As a Minister of Communion, you have been called to serve the very life of the church, the living Body of Christ.**
- **In your ministry, you serve your sisters and brothers by sharing with them the mystery that makes us one.**

# ***Importance of Communion Minister Role***

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- “The Eucharist stands at the center of the Church’s life.”

(Pope John Paul II, Ecclesia de Eucharistia, no.3)

- We can’t forget that it’s a privilege and a honor to distribute the Eucharist.
  - We need to celebrate the Eucharist with reverence, care, devotion and love.

# ***Importance of Communion Minister Role***

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- Your role at liturgy must never reach the point where you see yourself as “coming to Mass and giving out communion.”
  - Communion is not something which can be given out; it is a sharing of a most intimate sense.
    - The Eucharist connects you in a very real sense with the community of believers.
      - When you say, “**Body of Christ**” or “**Blood of Christ**”, and the communicant response “Amen” - **It’s a profession in their faith.**
  - When you share in the Body and Blood you enter into a true communion with those you serve.

# ***Dress Reverently***

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- You become the representative of the Church as you distribute the Body & Blood of Christ.
- How you come to mass and present yourself helps others know how it should be done.
- We are the example:
  - Please show reverence to Our Lord.
  - Our dress speaks to the importance of the celebration of the Eucharist.

# *Dress Reverently*

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- Clothing should not be distracting:
  - **Please Don't:**
    - Use low cut tops or dresses, or shorts
    - Use too short skirts or too tight fitting suits
    - Use spaghetti straps tops or dresses
      - Unless using a cardigan to cover shoulders
    - Expose your belly button
    - Use inappropriate shoes (flip flops)
    - Wear faded jeans or torn jeans
- **Dress as if you are going to a banquet or a special function to each mass.**
  - You might need to fill in; be prepared to serve always.

# ***Show Courtesy***

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- **Mark your calendar in advance with your assigned scheduled dates.**
  - **Allows you time to find your backup, if unable to serve.**
    - **It's a form of courtesy to the other Communion Ministers and to the Assembly.**
- **Check off your name on the posted schedule in work sacristy before mass.**
  - **Helps ministers determine if we need to get up after the Sign of Peace to serve.**
  - **Helps your leader identify who is and is not fulfilling their commitment to this ministry.**

# **Liturgy Refreshers**

Focus on Areas of Improvements or Awareness

# *Liturgy*

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## **Prior to Mass: Set Up**

- Please wash your hands before handling the bread and wine.
  - We have to remember we are preparing a meal.
- Work sacristy has posted on the wall the “presider per week per mass schedule” .
  - This information will allow you to know which presider’s chalice and paten/ciboria to use for mass.
- When we have two priests concelebrating in the mass, we will need only one (1) Host Minister to distribute Communion.
  - Host Minister 1 will serve.
    - Host Minister 2 excused from serving at that mass.

# *Liturgy*

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## **Prior to Mass: Set Up**

- Quantities document has been revised on 9/4/07.
  - The pyx quantities have been updated for the 9:30 am mass.
    - Eight (8) pxy
- To avoid disrupting our parishioners in the church before mass begins.
  - Ministers setting up the vessels need to use the side aisle to access the credence table and altar area.
    - Please do this going to and coming from the credence table and altar area.

# *Liturgy*

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## **During Mass: After the Intercessions**

- If you need to go add more hosts and wine, be prepared to add them before the offerings are taken to the altar.
  - Having to add more hosts and wine is going to continue to happen because of the growth in our parish.
- We would rather consecrate more hosts and wine than to run out during Communion.
  - The church instructs us to consecrate enough hosts and wine for each mass rather than going to the tabernacle.

# *Liturgy*

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## **During Mass: *After Sign of Peace***

- Stand on top of the green carpet behind the altar.
  - The first (1<sup>st</sup>) and second (2<sup>nd</sup>) ministers closest to the ambo will always be the Host Ministers.
  - The third (3<sup>rd</sup>) minister on the line will always be given the priest's chalice.

# *Liturgy*

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## **During Mass: *Distribution of Communion***

- Once every EME has their vessel move towards a station on the altar area.
  - Host Minister 1 and the first four (1 – 4) Cup Ministers will move to the right side, choir side.
  - Host Minister 2 and the other four (5 – 8) Cup Ministers will move towards the left side.
  - Cup Ministers, especially the ones closest to the Host Ministers, take several steps backwards; please do not stand parallel to the Host Minister.
  - This allows the communicants waiting to receive the Precious Blood sufficient space to wait in line.

# *Liturgy*

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## **During Mass: *Distribution of Communion***

- Remember to smile and make eye contact when distributing the Body & Blood of Christ.
  - As each person approaches you, look directly at the communicant; be sincere and inviting as you interact with each.
    - Ministers elevate at eye level the host or the cup to the communicant and say “**Body of Christ**” or “**Blood of Christ**”.
- Purificators that contain Precious Blood are considered a sacred linen.
  - Cup Ministers please be mindful not to use the purificator as a handkerchief.

# *Liturgy*

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## **During Mass: *Distribution of Communion***

- Spillage of Precious Blood of Christ
  - If you drop or spill the Precious Blood, don't panic. Be reverent as to how you react.
- Use your purificator to cover the spill.
  - Leave purificator flat on the floor.
  - Go to the altar and get another purificator and continue to distribute the Precious Blood.
- Clean the spillage after Mass
  - Review guidelines in work sacristy prior to cleaning the spill.

# *Liturgy*

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## **During Mass: *Distribution of Communion***

- If you are finished distributing Eucharist and your ciborium still has consecrated hosts in it, look to see if another Host Minister needs extra consecrated hosts.
  - If not, then place ciborium on the altar.
    - Wait for Father or the Deacon to hand your ciborium back to you.
    - By waiting in the altar area, this allows the Host Minister the opportunity to bring back his sacred vessel to the work sacristsy once the consecrated hosts have been combined into a ciborium.

# *Liturgy*

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## **During Mass: *Distribution of Communion***

- If you are finished distributing Eucharist and your chalice has Precious Blood, look to see if another Cup Minister needs more Precious Blood.
  - If not, then wait on the green carpet (altar) area.
  - Either you might have to swap your chalice with another Cup Minister.
  - You may have to cover their station with your chalice once their chalice does not have any more Precious Blood.
    - By waiting in the altar area, this allows all communicants who elect to receive in both species the opportunity to do so.
- For a chalice without Precious Blood:
  - You may take your chalice to the work sacristory.

# *Liturgy*

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## **During Mass: *Distribution of Communion***

- Once your sacred vessel is empty, walk past the credence table to the work sacristy.
  - Please retrieve in your other hand another vessel (large ciborium, pitcher, cruets, or water bowl).
  - Please don't pick up the purificator or towel because they might need if they have a spill.
- Place sacred vessels on the countertop directly underneath the Lead Host Minister guidelines and hand towel dispenser.
  - This gives the priest, deacon or the formally installed acolyte the countertop space required to purify the sacred vessels.
  - This allows them to flip the sacrarium cover without having to move any vessels.

# *Liturgy*

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## ***During Mass: After Distribution of Communion***

- The last two or three Host or Cup Ministers, who finish distributing Communion last, please do not leave the altar area until removing all the sacred vessels or linens from the altar.
- Take the sacred vessels (ciboria, chalice, purificator or corporal) to the work sacristy and place on the countertop.
  - For the corporals, please do not place them on top of a ciborium that has consecrated particles.
    - Carry the corporals separate on one hand.
  - Place the corporals on the countertop, not on top of a sacred vessel.

# *Liturgy*

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## **During Mass: *After Distribution of Communion***

- For a chalice with Precious Blood:
  - Please consume the Precious Blood in the work sacristy, then cover the top of your chalice with your purificator.
- The last minister in the work sacristy, please shut, not lock, the door before you return to the Assembly.
  - This will minimize individuals going into the work sacristy until the assigned person purifies the sacred vessels.

# *Liturgy*

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## **After Mass: *Clean Up***

- Once the celebration of the mass has ended:
  - The two (2) Host Ministers & the 1st Cup Minister on the weekend schedule need to go to the credence table to retrieve any other vessels, linens and carrying tray left on the credence table.
    - Return them to the work sacristy for cleaning or put up for storage.
  - The other Cup Ministers do not need to come to the work sacristy to clean the vessels.
    - They are excused.

# *Liturgy*

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## **After Mass: Clean Up**

- Once the sacred vessels have been purified, they can be washed in the regular commercial sink to the right.
  - For paten/ciboria - rinse them and then towel dry.
  - For chalices – wash the rim with soap, then towel dry.
    - Please use only a couple of drops of soap on the sponge because it makes it difficult to rinse the suds off the vessels.
    - Do not immerse the priest's individual chalice into water, because of water getting caught underneath the node and base.
- At 5:00 pm and 11:30 am masses:
  - Please remember to return tabernacle key to its hook in priest's sacristy.

# ***Closing Comments***

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- Thank you for saying yes again to this ministry.
- Please remember not to just do the mechanics of the role, or you'll lose sight of what you're holding in your hands, the Risen Christ.
- I pray that Our Lord will continue to guide you in your spiritual journey and that your relationship with Christ continues to deepen each time you serve.
- In closing, please join me by reciting the Act of Personal Recommitment for Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion.

## **Act of Personal Recommitment for Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion**

(Based on the Rite of Commissioning)

I remember with gratitude that I have been entrusted with ministering the Eucharist, with taking Communion to the sick, and with giving it as Viaticum to the dying.

I have accepted the responsibility of being an example of Christian living in faith and conduct. I reaffirm my desire to strive for greater holiness through this sacrament of unity and love. I remember that, though many, we are one body because we share the one bread and the one cup.

I acknowledge that the ministry of Holy Communion requires me to be especially observant of the Lord's command to love my neighbor. For when he gave his Body and Blood as food to his disciples, he said to them: "This is my commandment, that you should love one another as I have loved you."

I again resolve to undertake the office of giving the Body and Blood of the Lord to my brothers and sisters, and so serve to build up the Church.

I again resolve to minister the Holy Eucharist with the utmost care and reverence.

I ask almighty God, the Father, the Son, † and the Holy Spirit, to bless me as I give the bread of life and the cup of salvation to God's people, my brothers and sisters in the Lord. Strengthened by this sacrament, may we come at last to the banquet of heaven, where Jesus is Lord for ever and ever. Amen.

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# Questions or Feedback