

## PROPER USE AND CARE OF THE SACRED HOST AND PYX

For those ministers who distribute the host to the sick, nursing homes and the homebound.

There are certain guidelines which we should adhere to in our care of the Host and the Pyx.

The pyx is a sacred vessel just as the chalice and ciboria are and should be treated with respect and reverence. Many of the same care procedures apply to all three vessels (i.e., when purifying, a purificator should be used rather than a towel).

### **The following is a list of guidelines for communion ministers:**

1. At all times, the pyx should be carried in a burse and should be accompanied by a purificator.
2. Generally, the burse strap should be worn around the neck, placing the burse and pyx over the heart. This is the preferred manner of carrying it. It is however acceptable to carry it in shirt/coat pocket or pocketbook (preferably not in pant/skirt pocket).
3. It would be best to bring the pyx back to the church for purification after use (on the same day). (please see below Proper Method to Purify the Pyx)
4. Any unused Hosts should **always** be brought back to the church the same day.
5. Two things may be done with the unused Host:
  - a. It may be consumed by the minister.
  - b. It may be placed in the ciboria in the Tabernacle.In all cases the pyx should be purified at the sacrarium only (not in a home sink).
6. A purificator should be carried with the pyx for the following reason: In case the recipient of the Eucharist spits the host out inadvertently, in which case, it should be collected in the purificator and washed out in the sacrarium.
7. The soiled purificator should be put in the clothes hamper to be washed with other purificators; clean purificators should be put back in “purificator” drawer in the sacristy.
8. The same procedures should apply to those ministers who have their own pyx. The host should not be taken home and kept over night except in cases where undue problems arise. Remember that the surrounds of the Host should be as they are in the church.

***It is a great honor and privilege to administer the Body of Christ to those who are not able to come to church. Let us be conscious of our responsibilities and act accordingly.***

## Proper Method to Purify the Pyx

Use the **sacrarium** (this is the covered sink to the left found in the sacristy). The sacrarium leads to the ground.

**The pyx should never be purified in the regular sink to the right.**

1. Open the cover of the sacrarium.
2. Add a small amount of water into the pyx.  
**\*\*PLEASE DO NOT SUBMERGE THE PYX\*\***
3. Swirl the water around to remove any particles or remnants.
4. You may either:
  - a) consume the liquid by putting the liquid first into a cup or
  - b) carefully pour the liquid into the sacrarium
5. Use the purificator to thoroughly dry the pyx.
6. Place **the open pyx** in the appropriate bin in the Eucharist to the homebound drawer.
7. Place the burse in the appropriate bin in the Eucharist to the homebound drawer.
8. Place the purificator in the laundry basket.
9. Close the sacrarium.
10. Turn off the sink area light.

### **Related notes:**

- Do not leave pyx in the burse.
- Do not leave burse in the homebound box.
- Do not leave pyx in the tabernacle after your visit. If there are remaining Hosts, please return the Hosts to the ciborium in the tabernacle.
- Purify immediately after your visit.
- The pyx should be treated as a sacred vessel.