

St. Frances Cabrini Catholic Church

Guidelines for Eucharistic Ministers

Take a moment to clear your mind before the Eucharist begins. Remember that this is one of the most sacred parts of the Mass, and that you will be giving the Body and Blood of our Lord Jesus Christ to other Catholics. Keeping this in mind, act accordingly while you are serving as a Eucharistic Minister.

When it comes time to approach the altar at the Lamb of God, do so immediately. Do not wait around for someone else to go up first. This causes people to start looking around; glancing over their shoulders and that detracts from the holiness of the ceremony going on. If you are scheduled, then make your way up to the altar immediately. Please do not hesitate.

If you are the Minister assigned to the host, take the key from the altar, go to the tabernacle, open it, genuflect deeply and remove the consecrated hosts in the ciborium. Place the ciborium on the altar for Father.

Eucharistic ministers respond, **Amen**, to the priest and the deacon when they say, *“May the body of Christ bring me to everlasting life, and May the blood of Christ bring me to everlasting Life.”*

After the priest and the deacon have received communion, move forward and receive first the Body then the Blood.

Once the Eucharist begins, the two most important things are to be reverent, and to relax. Take your time when serving the people saying, “Body of Christ” for the bread and “Blood of Christ” for the wine. Enunciate each word, and pause a moment, holding up the host/chalice to let the words sink in.

*People should respond with **Amen**, which means that they believe in what they are receiving.*

Wipe the inside and outside of the cup with the purificator just around the rim. Do not let the purificator get down into the wine.

When you are finished distributing the Eucharist, if you were a Minister of the Blood, you will consume all of the consecrated blood from the chalice. Do not consume the wine until you reach the table behind the altar. Remember that the consummation is still a sacred part of the service. It is not necessary to say, “The Blood of Christ” out loud but think about that in your mind while consuming. Place the chalice back on the table. The deacon or the minister of the body will cleanse the chalice and the patens.

If you were the minister that distributed the host, wait while Father places the consecrated host in the ciborium and then place the ciborium back in the tabernacle. Bow deeply, lock the tabernacle and place the key on the altar.

Return to your seats.