

**Saint John Vianney Eucharistic Ministers
Reference Material
(Updated March 2024)**

1. **Please arrive 15 minutes before Mass begins.** If you are a Eucharistic Minister, please come early to check in with the Facilitator. If you are not signed in 10 minutes prior to mass, the facilitator will try to find another person to take your place. We ask you to check in even if you are late, to see if the position has been filled. This prevents confusion in the sanctuary later. Be sure to confirm on the modified picture at check-in for your assigned positions location for distribution. If you are not sure, ask the Facilitator.
2. **Unable to attend Mass.** If you know ahead of time, please request a substitute through the St. John Vianney Parish Ministry System (MSP). This way others can be notified and fill your position. You should also post a note on the hard copy posted on the bulletin board by marking through your name and writing "Sub Needed"
3. **What should I wear while ministering?** Remember that you are participating in the most important part of the Mass – distributing the Lord Jesus Christ. Your appearance should reflect this and show respect for the Lord. Please use common sense and respect for the ministry you are serving. Remember, you are an example to the rest of the congregation - They are watching you.
4. **When do I approach the Sanctuary?** During the Agnus Dei (Lamb of God), go to the base of the sanctuary by the Baptismal, lining up in front of the stairs by the railings and use hand sanitizer for cleaning. When approaching from your seat, if you need to cross from one side of the church to the other, please bow before the Sanctuary. Please line-up so that the 4 Cup Ministers will receive first, followed by the Host Ministers.
5. **When do I ascend the Sanctuary?** When the Priest turns to give communion to the music ministers, please enter the sanctuary single file between the two railings. Priest will give both the Body and Blood of Christ to the four Cup Ministers individually. They are to then line up in front of the Tabernacle facing the Altar. Father will then serve the Host Ministers the Body of Christ and they are to go and receive (or revere) the Blood of Christ from one of the Cup Ministers. Upon receiving both, they proceed back to the Altar, behind the Altar Servers still receiving, and gather their bowl from the Altar. The Cup Ministers remain in the Sanctuary until all

Host Ministers and Altar Servers have received the Precious Blood and then everyone will proceed to their station.

6. **Always enter and leave the Sanctuary by the side railings.** Do not bow. Because you have the blessed Body or Blood in your hands; it is not necessary since you are carrying Christ's true presence. Distribution of the precious Body and Blood begins when the priest descends from the sanctuary to take his position.
7. **What do I do if I forget where I am assigned?** The Facilitator will show you where you are serving when you check in. It is your responsibility to be sure you understand where you are posted. If for some reason, you forget, slow down and look for an empty space and take it. **Note:** The positions are assigned looking out from the sanctuary. Father faces the congregation and the #1H/C positions are to the left of the sanctuary by the Baptismal Font, #2H/C positions serve the center pews (beside Father), and #3H/C positions serve the right side of the sanctuary by the cantor.
8. **What should I say?** If you are distributing the Precious Body you say "the Body of Christ." If you are distributing the Precious Blood you say "The Blood of Christ." If you are offering a blessing to a child who is too young to receive, or an adult who approaches with his arms crossed over their chest, Father suggests you say "May Jesus be in your heart" or you can say "God Bless You." For sanitary reasons do not physically touch the individual. (You may also make the sign of the cross on their forehead, not touching them, if you feel comfortable to do so). FYI -That same hand will be touching the Host for the next Communicant.
9. **What do I do when I am through serving the congregation?** At the completion of serving the faithful, scan the other stations to see if they have a long line and position yourself to help distribute. Don't join them if there is already someone there. Only one Host and one Cup extra at any time or it gets very congested and confusing. When helping the "1" Section, the extra Host needs to position themselves on the upper side of the Baptismal with the Cup just off further toward the Narthex. At any time when you are finished, Host Ministers return any unused Hosts to Father and remain at the Altar until he gives the bowl back to you and then return it to the credence table. Cup Ministers return to the credence table to consume any remaining Precious Blood and place your cup in the tray along with your purificator. All EMs turn and face the Tabernacle while

Father places the Ciborium inside and closes the door of the tabernacle and bow when Father genuflects, immediately proceed behind the president's chair and down the stairs by the railings. Form a single line facing the Altar and when all ministers are together, then do a simple bow to the Altar and return to your seat.

10. **What else do I need to know?**
- a. If a **Host is dropped** on the floor, pick up the Host and hold in your non-serving hand. After you are done, you can either consume it or give it to the priest to consume. (Please note that this is an accident and anomaly). If someone walks away with a host and does not consume it, you should ask them to consume it or return it to you out of respect for the sacred presence. However, never make a scene or make someone feel threatened. You can always tell the priest after Mass so he can take care of it.
 - b. If for some reason the consecrated **Blood spills** on the floor, cover it with our purificator, walk to the credence table, obtain another purificator, return to your position and continue serving. The spilled precious Blood will be taken care of after mass.
 - c. **Not all communicants will receive the precious Body in their hands**; some will approach and stick out their tongue. If this occurs, simply place the Host on the tip of their tongue. You can move your fingers closer to the Host and not touch the tongue.
 - d. **What should I do if I cannot consume the remaining precious Blood?** Ask another minister to help you or leave it for the Sacristan to take care of it.
 - e. **As a minister, do I have other duties besides serving the congregation?** There are some duties which you should be aware of:
 - i. *** 1 Host and 1 Cup serve the disabled. (The hospitality minister will lead you.)
 - ii. ***3 Host and 3 Cup will serve the congregation and then the choir when they finish their section. However, if they are still serving the congregation, other ministers may take their place when they complete serving their section. (9:00 and 11:00)

- iii. *** 3 Host and 3 Cup are to purify the vessels after mass. The Sacristan will purify vessels prior.
- f. **Note:** Not all masses are served the same. Please be sure to follow the instructions which apply to your mass. Thank you.

Cleaning of the Vessels After Mass

The vessels used to serve Communion need to be purified and cleansed after each Mass. The process for doing this is as follows:

The Sacristan will purify the cups and bowls. This is done by pouring a small amount of water into one cup, swishing it around and then pouring it into another cup. Repeat until all cups have been purified with the water. The crumbs in the bowls are to be swept with the purificator into the last cup and to be consumed. The vessels are taken to the vestry to be washed and put away or to be prepared for the following Mass.(The Sacristan, or one of the assigned EM's, will prepare the tray for the next Mass, if there's another Mass.)

There are two sinks in the Sacristy. One is connected to the sewer system and one empties into the ground under the church, (Sacrarium). It is a proper and respectful way of disposing of any remains of the precious Body and/or Blood of our Lord.

When the Sacristan brings the vessels into the Sacristy, the persons responsible for purifying the vessels then wash with warm soapy water in the second sink, dried and put in the appropriate place according to the Mass schedule.

The bowls are rinsed with clean water, dried, and put in the appropriate place according to the Mass schedule.

After the vessels have been rinsed, fill the Sacrarium with cool water and place the unfolded purificators into cool water to rinse precious Blood from them. They should be hung over the edge of the hamper to dry. Do not put wet linens in the hamper as they will mold..

Finally, clean and wipe down the sinks.

May God Bless you and thank you for serving Jesus at SJV.