

Update for Eucharistic Ministers – November 2025

This fall we will return to some of our pre-covid preparation for Holy Eucharist. These notes pertain to both sacristans (*) and other ministers of the Eucharist. Changes are noted in green font.

- The small tables at the ends of the aisles will be changed. The center table will remain where it is. The two side tables will be placed at the large posts by the Reservation Chapel and choir. The hand sanitizers will be at the **side tables only**. If you wish to use sanitizer, you must go to the front immediately after the beginning of the sign of peace so that you are done quickly. Towels will no longer be provided. The other purpose of all the tables is to allow the minister to deal with the distribution of gluten-free hosts.
- We will continue to use only two cups for the Precious Blood. The change for the Precious Blood is that the Deacon or, in his absence, one of the cup ministers, will distribute the Precious Blood to the other ministers at the altar. After doing so, they will remain at the end of the row of ministers on the Reservation Chapel side and then distribute the cup at the railing on the same side. After communion, the cup ministers return their chalices to the altar for purification. The minister(s) may, if they so wish, consume any remaining Precious Blood. If they wish to do so, it should be done prior to leaving their station and done in a reverent manner. Set up for the wine remains the same (*)
- Gluten-free hosts should not be touched by the minister distributing them. Merely open the pyx and flip it over dropping the host into the hands of the communicant.
- For setup (*) of the hosts, we will no longer use the gold bowl for a portion of the hosts. Depending on the number of consecrated hosts in the tabernacle, whatever number is needed for mass will go into the basket which will continue to be placed on the gift table with the carafe. There should be a gluten-free host in a pyx for each bread minister station. Consecrated gluten-free hosts will go into the ciboria coming from the tabernacle. Those needing to be consecrated should go into the basket. Try to leave 2-3 consecrated gluten-free hosts available in the tabernacle for home/other visits.
- We will continue to put the presider's medium-sized host on the paten on top of the chalice. The tray will be completed with two purificators, two cups, presider's chalice with medium host, paten and purificator and white

cardboard cover. Depending on the number of ciboria in the tabernacle, one or two of the silver ciboria must be on the tray as well. (The basket and 3 ciboria are used for communion)

- Please note that the medium-sized hosts should be kept in the refrigerator.
 - After communion, bread ministers will proceed to the Reservation Chapel where the sacristan (*) will combine the hosts and place into tabernacle.
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The following notes and practices remain unchanged.

Please try to get to mass early if you are scheduled to serve. Check in at the lectern. If you are not checked in by 5 minutes prior to the beginning of mass, the sacristan will cross off your name and find a substitute. If you are late, do **not** assume that you will be serving. You should check the sign-in sheet. If you are not scheduled to serve and would like to make your presence known to the sacristan as a substitute, please do so.

Three ministers of the Body and one minister of the Precious Blood will be assigned for each mass, assuming a Deacon will be present. With the presider, there will be four ministers of the Body and with the Deacon, there will be two ministers of the Precious Blood.

At the sign of peace, all ministers should proceed to the area in front of the altar. Ministers of the Body should proceed to the tabernacle side of the altar; minister(s) of the Precious Blood should proceed to the choir side. The sacristan will go to the tabernacle for the consecrated hosts.

At the beginning of the “Lamb of God”, the sign of peace is over. Please do not continue to share the sign of peace after this holy prayer has begun.

After the priest receives communion, all ministers will proceed to the altar platform to receive communion. The ministers of the Body will be on the tabernacle side and the minister(s) of the Precious Blood, on the choir side. In this way, the presider will know which ministers are distributing which form and how many hosts go to each section.

NB: One should not refuse the Precious Blood; if a minister does not wish to consume from the cup, they should say “Amen”, take the cup and then return it to the priest or deacon.

Each minister will receive their ciborium or cup and purificator. When all the ciboria and chalices have been distributed, the ministers should proceed to their positions. The minister of the Body standing closest to the choir side should proceed there; the minister of the Body closest to the tabernacle side should proceed to that aisle; and the one in the middle will go with the presider to the center aisle. For ministers of the Body, it is important that you proceed to the distribution position which aligns with your place at the altar. This is because the priest distributes the number of hosts to the vessels in accordance with the number of people seated in the various sections of the church.

Cup ministers will position themselves between the ministers of the Body on each side and distribute the Precious Blood to congregants coming from either direction.

The correct and only words to be used for presentation of communion are:

“The body of Christ”

“The blood of Christ”

If someone comes up to a minister with arms crossed, they are asking for a blessing, not communion. You may simply make the sign of cross on the person’s forehead or any other simple blessing you are comfortable with.

Please refrain from speaking or whispering on either the altar platform or at the tabernacle. Sound travels extremely well in our church. Nor is talking or whispering a good example of reverence.

Note: If, by chance, you or a communicant drops a host, you should simply pick it up and consume it. If you spill precious blood on the floor, cover it with your purificator. Ask the mass coordinator for assistance if necessary. Be sure to let the sacristans know where the spill occurred so they can wash the floor after mass.

Thank you for your continuing service to the members of St. Madeleine Sophie Parish,

The SMS Liturgy Team