

GUIDELINES FOR COMMUNION ASSISTANTS

1. The communion assistants should come to altar after the Lord's prayer. Be respectful when you come to the altar. You will receive communion with the acolyte. Then you will assist giving communion to the pastor, using the words, "Body of Christ given for you" or "Blood of Christ shed for you".
2. If serving the common cup, hand the cup to those who are communing as you say, "The blood of Christ, shed for you." After each communicant has drunk from the chalice the assisting minister should use a purificator to wipe both the outside and inside area where the person has drunk. The chalice should then be turned so that the next communicant drinks from another area of the chalice. The chalice should not be wiped from the same place of the purificator, but the purificator should be moved each time it is used. When a purificator is fully soiled, another purificator should be used. There maybe people who will commune by intinction, hold the cup for them to dip their wafer as you say, "The blood of Christ, shed for you."
3. When serving the individual cups from the silver trays, take each cup and hand it to the communicant saying, "The blood of Christ, shed for you." If they want grape juice, just exchange for a cup containing the grape juice.
4. Follow the pastor's lead on communing children. If children are communing, parents will usually tell you if they take grape juice instead of wine.
5. During Lent, when the wooden trays are used, offer the tray to each communicant as you say, "The blood of Christ, shed for you." Each person will take their own cup. The reason for this is that the wooden trays are too heavy to hold in one hand and serve the cup with the other hand.
6. We will not be using names as we offer the wine. We do not want people to feel left out. Under pressure it is hard to remember everyone's name and not everyone wears their name tag. Also we don't want visitors to feel left out. The words, "for you", is personal!
7. A sacristan is use at the 10:30 service and at special services. They will give the assistants new trays and refill the common cup. At the close of the service, they will cover all the trays and wine vessel on the credence table.
8. At the 8:15 service, there will be no sacristan, so one of the assisting ministers should do this. Usually the person carrying the individual cup tray as they are the first to finish and the common cup goes to the pastor, to be placed on the altar to be covered there.
9. Be respectful as you leave the altar.