

Updated Procedures for serving at Mass – 3rd Quarter 2023

Starting in January of 2023, we reinstated the distribution of the Precious Blood. For now, there will only be two chalice positions until we have the resources to support our pre-pandemic lineup.

Currently, we have six EMs assigned to each weekend Mass to distribute the Precious Body & Blood. A seventh EM will be needed when there isn't a deacon serving.

Key points:

- For now, **the altar setting duties will remain with the T EM**. So, the **T EM** will assist in setting the altar (C1 duties) at the start of the Offertory. While this primarily means bringing the tray and any extra chalices to the altar, the T EM should make sure the correct number of ciboria and chalices are set out. If there are any ciborium filled with unconsecrated hosts, they should bring them up. They should also check that the altar servers bring the priest's chalice/purificator, corporal, and water pitcher up and assist, if necessary. After the wine is poured, the tray and flagon should then be returned to the Credence Table. **In both cases – bringing the tray and chalices up and removing the tray and flagon – carry items individually (one in each hand). Make additional trips if necessary.**
- At Communion time, the T EM will move directly to the sanctuary at the start of the Lamb of God, remove the ciborium from the tabernacle, and place it on the altar. After Communion, they will place the ciborium back in the tabernacle.
- The remaining host EMs will stop at the Credence Table before entering the sanctuary to pick up the ciboria and bring them to altar. Host EMs should **ascend on the ambo side** of the altar and **should place ciboria within easy reach of Fr. Tom**. Chalice EMs should move directly to the sanctuary and stand on the chair side.
- For now, **if there is no deacon, the EM filling in (C2) will be the one to offer the chalice to the other EMs**. Once we add additional chalice positions, this duty will revert to the C1 EM.
- **The C3 EM offers the Precious Blood to the altar servers.**
- We will distribute the Precious Body from the positions we have been using these last few months. **We will distribute the Precious Blood from the C2 (deacon) and C3 positions.**
- The Narthex Host positions are responsible for bringing Communion to those who can't come forward (Narthex H1) and those in the Narthex or back of the church who would prefer not coming forward. Unless there is absolutely no one in the Narthex, **both Narthex EMs should move immediately to their assigned positions**. When all who cannot/prefer not to come forward have received, the EMs serving the Narthex should move to **the side-aisle helper** positions, assisting the T and the H4 as needed. When finished there, they may move to help from the center aisle positions.
- After Communion, vessels will be returned to the Credence Table (Festive vessels should be brought directly to the sacristy). After Mass, vessels will be collected from, washed, and returned to the Credence Table (if a Mass follows) or put away in the cabinet after the last Mass of the weekend. If there is wine left in the flagon, it can be left out if a Mass follows. Otherwise, discard any extra and rinse and dry the flagon. This and the bowl used for the presentation of the gifts should be left in the sacristy (if a Mass follows) or put away in the cabinet. The corporal should be shaken out in the sacarium, refolded, and returned to the Credence Table when another Mass follows. **Cleaning the vessels is the responsibility of all EMs. No EM should leave without making sure there is enough help. This is especially true on special days and when special events follow.**