

# TEPEYAC INSTITUTE

## General Guidelines for the Minister of Communion

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1. Dress neatly in a way constant with the dignity of the functional role, and make sure your hands are totally clean.  
  
Be at least ten (10) minutes early for Mass for proper preparation for your ministry. If there is a chart in the sacristy, sign your name as to where your communion station will be. Take the empty vessels for communion to the credence table.
2. Eventhough hosts are to be consecrated at each Mass, check to be sure there are sufficient consecrated hosts in the tabernacle. In the event they run out.
3. Tabernacle:
  - A) Know where the tabernacle key is placed.
  - B) If there is a tabernacle near or in the sanctuary:
    - i. genuflect as a sign of reverence before and after Mass;
    - ii. do not genuflect to the tabernacle during Mass, but one bows to the altar;
    - iii. when opening or closing the tabernacle, one does genuflect.
4. Advise the presider if you will be taking the Eucharist to the sick. The pyx is placed on the credence table or the altar so that the Eucharistic Bread can be placed within it at the proper time.
5. Take your place with the assembly, and remain with the assembly until the *Lamb of God*. At the sign of peace ministers should begin to approach the sanctuary.
6.
  - A) After the presider has consumed the Eucharistic bread and Eucharist wine, the ministers of Communion are to share in the Eucharist.
  - B) The minister of Communion normally shares from the cup.
7. The minister of Communion should move reverently to the Communion stations according to parish practice.
8. Share the eucharistic bread and wine by saying only “The Body of Christ” or “The Blood of Christ.”
9. Sharing of the cup:
  - A) After saying “The Blood of Christ” allow the communicant to take the cup from your hands.
  - B) The communicant should take a small drink of the Eucharistic wine.
  - C) The communicant returns the cup to you.
  - D) Take the purificator and wipe the cup.
  - E) After each wipe, turn the cup slightly for the next communicant.
  - F) After everyone has shared communion, the minister of communion takes the cup to the credence table. If there is still some Eucharistic wine, the minister consumes it.
  - G) All ministers bring the vessels to the credence table - not to the altar - for purification.

10. Purification:
  - A) With a purificator, wipe all the particles of the Eucharistic bread from the ciborium into the principal chalice.
  - B) Water is used to rinse the cups and consumed from the principal chalice.
  - C) A priest, deacon, or instituted acolytes consumes the water with the Eucharistic particles.
  - D) Ministers may then wash and dry the sacred vessels after each Mass.
11. Always be mindful and considerate of the handicapped, the young and the aged.
12. The reason for having more ministers of communion at Mass is not to make communion go faster, but to be a sign of our gathering around the "Table of the Lord."

**Do Not:**

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1. Do not serve more than one ministry per Mass, except under extreme circumstances.
2. Do not wear shorts or immodest clothing.
3. Your ministry comes from the assembly. Do not process up with the ministers at the entrance or at the recessional.
4. Do not give blessings with the host.
5. When there are enough priests at a special Mass celebration, they will share communion with the assembly. If they need extra help, other ministers will be called to do so.
6. Communion in the hand or mouth is the option of the communicant, not the minister of Communion. Do not force the issue at Mass. You are at their service.
7. Do not admonish people during the sharing of the Eucharist. This is not the proper time to scold or instruct people.
8. After communion do not return communion vessels to the altar. Return vessels to credence table or to the sacristy, according to parish custom.

**SPECIFIC CIRCUMSTANCES:**

1. Should the Eucharistic bread fall to the floor:
  - A) Pick up the bread immediately, and place it on the corporal or appropriate vessel.
  - B) Eucharistic wine is to be cleaned immediately with a purificator.
  - C) Be sensitive to the person who dropped the host.
2. In a respectful manner, make sure the communicant consumes the Eucharistic bread.
3. You may not refuse to give anyone Communion; however, you may ask a person if they have made their First Communion if they seem uncertain as to what they are doing. If the situation requires more attention, you might want to talk to the person in a pastoral manner after mass.

WHEN TAKING COMMUNION TO THE SICK:

You go directly to the sick person.

Do not carry the host with you to the house, store, or anywhere else other than directly to the person who will share communion.

When carrying the host in a blessed pyx, be sure to observe proper conduct and respect.

(Revised: January 2012)