

Sunday-Solemnity Communion Rite Procedures

St. Maximilian Kolbe Parish

Implemented February 2011

(Updated 3/16/2012)

Before Mass:

- EMHCs should arrive at least 20 minutes prior to Mass, sign in, and will be assigned a station.
- Sacristans place 4 purificators on the credence table for the “sanctuary” EMHCs, and 3 on the principal chalice (for it and the flagons of wine.) There is always a healthy supply of purificators on the back gifts table (near where extra hosts are located.)

After the Sign of Peace:

- 4 EMHCs who will minister the chalices in the front (C1, 2, 4, 5 - C3 is normally the deacon) go into the sanctuary, standing behind the altar in front of the half wall. C1 will pick up the purificators from the credence table for the EMHCs in the sanctuary.
- *2 EMHCs who will be plate ministers (P1/P5) in the front sections also come to the sanctuary.
- All other EMHCs go to the back of Church. Each chalice minister will retrieve a purificator from the gift table, forming into 2 lines near the font. All should line up on the side of the church they will minister to.
 - Plate and chalice ministers who are distributing to sections 4-10 will line up on the right side facing the sanctuary.
 - Plate and chalice ministers who are distributing to sections 1-3, and 11-15 will line up on the left side facing the sanctuary
 - Chalice ministers should be in the front of the lines; plates in the back.
- No one goes to the tabernacle – normally only Hosts consecrated at Mass are offered for Communion.

As the instrumental introduction to the Communion song begins:

- The priest (and any concelebrants) receive Communion. The deacon receives Communion.
- At the same time, the ministers in the back process two-by-two towards the sanctuary, with the lineleaders waiting at the front pew. DO NOT WAIT!

After the priest communicates himself, concelebrants, and the deacon(s):

- The priest and deacon communicate the 6 ministers in the sanctuary under both forms.
- The 4 chalice ministers keep their chalices
- The 2 plate ministers go to two of the chalices to receive the Precious Blood. They then go to the priest or deacon at the altar to receive their plates.
- *Having received Communion themselves, the 2 plate ministers and the 4 chalice ministers proceed to the floor to distribute to the other EMHCs. The plate ministers will begin distributing the Hosts to all the remaining EMHCs lined up in the center aisle.
- After receiving Hosts on the floor, the chalice ministers (who are first) go into the sanctuary, and receive their chalices from the priest or deacon two-by-two, who says “The Blood of Christ” to each of them, while handing the chalice that they will drink, and then distribute from. The chalice minister keeps the chalice, and goes ***immediately*** to his/her station. Please keep the purificator over the chalice anytime you are moving.

*Revised in Nov. 2011

Revised/clarified in March 2012

- *The plate ministers, after receiving Hosts on the floor, approach one of the chalice ministers that are standing on the floor and receive the Previous Blood. They then approach the priest or deacon at the altar to receive their plate and go *immediately* to their station.
- As soon as a pair of ministers has both arrived at their stations, the section begins processing.

During the Communion Procession:

- Ministers distribute to their section ONLY as a general rule.
- If plate ministers have remaining Hosts, they may add them to the plate of the minister next to them. Or, if both are done, they go straight back the aisle they're in to a minister for a back section. Only if everyone is done receiving Communion should a plate minister return their hosts to the altar and the large gold bowl. THEY DO NOT BECOME A 2nd DISTRIBUTOR FOR ANY SECTION.
 - If a plate minister is running out of Hosts for their section, they begin to break Hosts in half (only when sure this is necessary, likely towards the end.)
- If a chalice minister has a significant quantity of the Precious Blood remaining, he/she goes to the sanctuary steps to watch other stations, and may take the place of an empty chalice who has left/is leaving. THEY DO NOT BECOME A 2nd DISTRIBUTOR FOR A SECTION AND THE PRECIOUS BLOOD MAY NOT BE Poured FROM ONE CHALICE TO ANOTHER.

When the ministers are done distributing:

- Chalice ministers return their vessels and purificators to the sacristy, reverently consuming what remains if possible, and placing the vessels on the appropriate places on the counter. They then kneel or sit.
 - The deacon does this with his chalice, and then goes to the Eucharistic chapel to wait at the tabernacle for the EMHC captain.
- Plate ministers go to the altar, place any remaining Hosts in the large gold bowl, then take their plate to the sacristy in the same way.
- Once all the remaining hosts have been consolidated into the large gold bowl, the EMHC captain is responsible for bearing the Blessed Sacrament (simply, without procession). The captain, assisted by the deacon, then reposes the ciborium in the tabernacle. After the Blessed Sacrament is reposed in the tabernacle, the door is locked (key removed if the last Mass of the day),
- The priest remains standing, and assembly kneeling, until the gold bowl of Hosts has left the Church, and then he simply sits (without bowing or any other gesture), signaling that the assembly would do the same to begin the period of silent prayer.

NOTES:

- Deacons and captains will normally both have to pour chalices, half on each side of the altar. If there is a concelebrating priest or a second deacon, he may take the place of the captain.
- P5/C5, when finished with their section, distribute to the choir. Others who are finished (plates or chalices) may help here, due to the extra room near the music ministry area.
- All ministers, after returning their vessels to the sacristy after Communion, may return to church by going through the chapel, and exiting by the music area (especially those seated on the west side of the church) to alleviate congestion in the foyer on the east chapel side.