

Lay Eucharistic Ministry Training

Thank you for your time and attention to this holy ministry. Your presence, demeanor and actions all set a tone of reverence and ease for the people of God gathered to worship. Please arrive early on your designated Sunday and take a few minutes to pray in the pew so that you arrive at the Altar centered and prepared. From your Rector, Hannah

8:00 and 10:00 and Holy Days:

The LEM follows the priest/deacon with the bread and administers the chalice. LEMs (Lay Eucharistic Ministers) assist at all services. On Saturday, the one LEM serves as both lector and LEM. At 8:00, there are two LEMs and at 10:00 there are four.

On the Sunday you are assigned, you should move to the Altar during the presentation of the offering and stand in a semi-circle behind the priests. Move so that there is a balance of LEMs on each side. You will receive communion first and then as a group move to the altar and take a chalice.

At 8:00, the chalice bearers each take a side of the altar and follow the priest.

At 10:00 the first chalice bearer on both sides begins at the end of the altar closest to the Guild Room or the Chapel and proceeds through the first 3 sections (marked by the posts dividing the altar). The second chalice bearer begins with the fourth post and goes to the end of the altar.

Wait for the priest to have given the host to four people before you begin with the chalice. As you lower the chalice, you say "The Blood of Christ, the Cup of Salvation." If the parishioner drinks from the cup, you wipe the lip of the cup with the purificator (cloth) and rotate the chalice before moving to the next parishioner. If a parishioner crosses their arms, this means they do not take the wine. Regardless, you still stop in front of them and say the same words.

Hold the chalice in a position which is convenient for the parishioner. If the parishioner intincts, lower the chalice to a level that makes it easy for them to dip the wafer. If the parishioner chooses to drink, please keep a hand on the chalice. The exception would be an individual who needs to stand; pass it to them and then wipe the lip of the chalice afterward..

After all communicants have partaken, you drape the purificator (napkin) across the chalice, return to the first server, bow and hand over the chalice to the server. Return to your seat.

* If any part of a host falls into the wine, please use the small silver spoon found on the altar to remove it. Place the piece in the silver dish by the spoon.

Saturday at 5:00 pm:

The server at 5:00 serves as Lector and LEM. You will read the first lesson, introduce the psalm and read the second lesson. The Vestry Person on Duty (which may be you) reads the Prayers of the People. (If you are to do all, it is fine to ask an attending parishioner if they would like to read the prayers.)

After the peace/announcements, move with the Priest to the altar. Make sure that the kneeler is in place in the middle of the altar and the wooden pulls are drawn together to complete the altar rail. Go to the Credence Table and bring the bread box to the priest (if needed) and then the wine and water. Hold the cruets by their bottoms with the handles facing the priest. After the priest has finished with them, return them to the credence table. The lavabo (small dish with a purificator) is on the table. Drape the napkin over your left wrist and hold the lavabo for the priest to wash her hands. Pour water over her hands; she will use the purificator to dry her hands and then return it to your wrist. Put the purificator and lavabo back on the credence table. You then move to the side of the altar while the priest begins the Liturgy of the Great Thanksgiving. You will receive Holy Communion first and then follow the priest with the chalice. After all have received, return to the altar and the priest will give you the chalice, etc. to return to the credence table. Push the altar rail pulls back into place and return to your seat. The priest should indicate if they want you to extinguish the candles (others may have been designated to do this). Return all items from the credence table to the Sacristy after the dismissal.

Don Phipps has graciously taken over the task of assigning the LEMS. There is great flexibility in scheduling.