

December 1, 2024

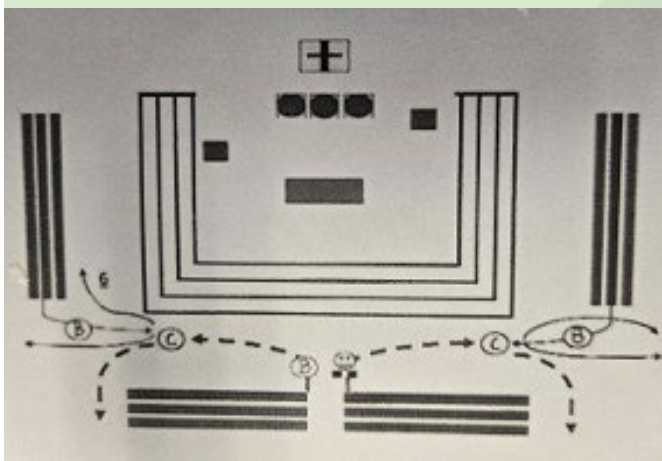
## From the Desk of Fr. Jerry

Dear Friends,

If you were not able to read my letter in last week's bulletin about Holy Communion procedures, I would appreciate it very much if you were read it here [www.stpatrick-lakeforest.org/from-the-desk-of-fr-jerry](http://www.stpatrick-lakeforest.org/from-the-desk-of-fr-jerry). Last week I focused on procedures for showing reverence for the Sacred Body of Jesus. Today I will focus on the reception of the Sacred Blood of Jesus at Mass. Beginning this weekend we will offer the Precious Blood of Jesus at the 5pm and 10am masses continuing each weekly through January 5th. The Precious Blood will not be offered at Christmas Masses. After the Epiphany, our goal is for the Precious Blood to be offered at all Masses where a minimum of two cup ministers are available.

Limiting the masses at which the Precious Blood is initially offered provides time to: identify and resolve any issue; train sufficient Extraordinary Ministers to serve as cup ministers; make updates to scheduling software; and allow parish/communicants to become comfortable receiving the Precious Blood. It has been almost five years since St. Patrick offered the Precious Blood at Holy Communion. In January, we'll begin recruiting and training more Extraordinary Ministers to act as ministers of the Precious Blood.

Initially we will post two Eucharistic Ministers of the Sacred Blood at stations. One station is to the right and one station is to the left, halfway in between the stations of the Ministers of the Sacred Body. This enables communicants to approach the Sacred Blood station no matter where they receive the Sacred Body.



Approaching the communion minister a communicant will make a slight bow of reverence. The Eucharistic Minister will say, "The Blood of Christ" while offering the chalice to which the communicant first responds "Amen."

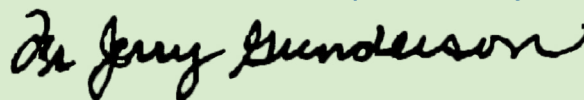
Then taking the cup in both hands the communicant sips from the cup and hands it back to the Eucharistic Minister. Take care to assure that the chalice is firmly in grasp when taking it or returning it to the Eucharistic Minister

The minister then uses a purificator to wipe the rim of the chalice before offering it to the next person,

usually rotating the cup slightly to ensure different parts are used for each communicant. We need time to evaluate how much wine will be needed to accommodate those who wish to receive communion in this way. We will begin with a limited amount. The Minister of the Sacred Blood will leave his or her station when all the wine is consumed. Please be patient if you are not able to receive the Sacred Blood because what we consecrate is insufficient. Ideally, no consecrated wine should remain after communion.

It is never permitted to dip the host into the Sacred Blood (intinction), as this would contaminate it, especially for those who may be gluten intolerant and can only receive communion in this way. The church has always taught that whether one receives the Sacred Body or Precious Blood, one is receiving the Body and Blood of Christ.

The November 9th workshop for Eucharistic Ministers was recorded and is now posted on the parish website at [Eucharistic Minister Workshop I St. Patrick Church](http://www.stpatrick-lakeforest.org/Eucharistic_Minister_Workshop_I_St_Patrick_Church). In addition the Conference of Catholic Bishops provides a reflection on the communion Procession at [The Reception of Holy Communion at Mass I USCCB](http://www.usccb.org/The_Reception_of_Holy_Communion_at_Mass_I_USCCB).



Fr. Jerry Gunderson