

Communion Assistant Guidelines

LITURGY is "the work of the people." Worship on the weekend prepares us for our "liturgy" during the week in job, home, and all interactions with others. Good worship draws on the gifts of all the assembled people, and as Communion Assistants, your gift helps to equip the people to go out and do "liturgy."

Guidelines (These are *guidelines* only, and are meant to assist you in defining your own degree of comfort and style.)

1. Select a robe that hangs close to your ankles. Select a cincture (belt) that does not interfere with going up and down the altar steps. Take the robe to your pew or hang in the narthex.
2. Gather in the narthex (choir room if no procession) with other worship leaders for prayer right before worship.
3. Robe during the sharing of the peace.
4. Go to the altar at the beginning of the meal with other ministers. Be prepared to indicate to the presiding minister which element you will distribute.
5. Distribute one wine chalice. (Assisting minister and crucifer distribute the other wine chalice and grape juice)
6. Although the purificator (napkin) is not intended to keep the chalice sterile, it is adequate in providing a clean surface for each communicant who chooses to drink wine from the chalice. To wipe the chalice completely without displaying the "lipstick stains" to the congregants, put the purificator over your index finger and hold it between your other fingers, which will enable you to wipe both the inside and outside of the chalice at the same time. Rotate the chalice after each person drinks. Shifting the position of the purificator periodically will allow for using the cleanest portion of cloth.
7. When communicants partake of the meal by intinction (dipping the bread in the wine), it is sometimes unavoidable that pieces of the communion bread remain in the chalice. Use the small spoon to remove the bread from the chalice and place the pieces in the bowl.
8. After communion, give the chalice and purificator to the assisting minister and receive communion with other worship leaders. Then return to your pew.

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