

Q/C (Question/Comment) from liturgical minister training sessions

May 19 & 23, 2026

Q/C: For the 11:30am Mass on Sunday – When I am serving as EM, I would need someone to help queue my disabled daughter when to stand to receive communion. We sit up front, center. Any ideas would be helpful. (Name withheld but is recorded on file.)

A: There is no requirement for a person with a disability to stand in order to receive Communion. Communion will be brought to them, provided the Eucharistic Minister is aware of their location, either through the yellow flag or another form of notification. For ease of access, it is helpful for individuals with disabilities to be seated at the end of a row or toward the front of the worship space, though this is not required.

Q/C: Two weeks ago, I saw an EM who was wearing a pair of jeans with a big rip in the leg. I think it is disrespectful to wear jeans with tears when serving. I have no problem with people wearing jeans as an EM, just not with a big rip in the leg.

A: Last year, the Liturgy Commission established a dress code for all Liturgical Ministers. Ministry coordinators are asked to review the dress code during training sessions and provide periodic reminders to ensure continued adherence.

Q/C: Suggestion: Place dots on carpet to indicate where EMs should stand. This will be helpful in knowing where to stand when serving. Thank you.

A: Please refer to the information sheet posted in the vesting sacristy. There are plans to replace the flooring, which will remove the dots in the process.

Q/C: Make sure Point Person or Sacristan recognizes parishioners that want to take host to their family member at home. This person needs to be familiar to the ministers so we are aware that the host is handled properly and respectfully.

A: At the conclusion of Mass, the Sacristan stands near the Tabernacle to distribute consecrated hosts to those who bring the Eucharist to parishioners who are homebound or otherwise unable to attend Mass. These ministers are typically trained by Laurie Moloney and carry a pyx for transporting the hosts. If someone requests the Eucharist for this purpose but does not have a pyx, the Sacristan should direct them to contact Laurie Moloney or Father for the necessary training and to obtain a pyx.

Q/C: Can the parishioner with disabilities sit in the front pews rather than be spread out throughout the church? Can you designate the front pews as disabled seats? It will help with the flow of communion. Point can direct to designated/reserved seats before Mass.

- A: Individuals with disabilities may wish to sit with their families, and they will receive Communion regardless of where they are seated. For ease of access, it is helpful if they are seated at the end of a row.
- Q/C: Can the media crew (video and audio) come up for communion? The choir lines up for communion – it would make sense for the media team to do the same. It will help with the flow of communion. The choir doesn't start singing right away, so the song doesn't need to be on the screen right away.
- A: Members of the media typically remain in the designated media area at the back of the room and line up to receive Communion, similar to how the choir lines up behind the pillar near the choir section. Due to the activity and equipment in the media area, it is often difficult for them to come forward to receive Communion. Therefore, Eucharistic Ministers should go to them to distribute Communion as needed.
- Q/C: We are supposed to be ministering to all people. When we only have 2 cup ministers, we are not serving our special needs members. So people need the extra liquid that the Blessed Wine provides to dissolve the host. If the bread ministers that are not serving the special needs simply wait 2 or 3 minutes until the Blessed Wine minister gets back into position, then we can serve everyone. Are we on a timeline on ministering to everyone? We recently witnessed a similar situation in CA. The priest reminded everyone to be patient so everyone is served. (Comment from a person who attends the 5:30pm Sunday Mass, where there are only two cup ministers.)
- A: If we are able to add two additional Cup Ministers at this Mass, that would help address the need. With only two Cup Ministers, however, it is difficult to serve everyone efficiently, and it can create delays and congestion in the Communion flow.
- Please help spread the word that we are in need of two more Cup Ministers for this (5:30pm) Mass so that all members of the assembly, including those with special needs, can be served in a timely and orderly manner.
- Q/C: For medical emergencies, is the Point Person the one to call 911, get wheelchair, AED, etc.?
- A: The Point Person is trained to respond to medical emergencies and may initiate actions such as calling 911, retrieving a wheelchair, or obtaining an AED. However, the Point Person may not always be the one closest to the emergency or first aware it, depending on their location at the time.
- For this reason, **anyone who recognizes an emergency should immediately call 911**. No special role is required. While the Point Person may coordinate response when available, any minister or attendee should feel empowered to act without delay.

Q/C: Are you recruiting Ministers of Hospitality for Sunday 5:30pm Mass? There are currently none scheduled. (As a Point Person, I try not to fill any empty positions unless absolutely necessary and I never fill more than one ministry in addition to Point Person. This is also more difficult when there are no Ministers of Hospitality. Recruiting of more ministers is crucial, especially at the 5:30pm Mass. I am happy to help recruit by phone calling, personally inviting, or whatever you decide. (Name withheld but is recorded on file)

A: Yes! We are continually recruiting for all positions. Please feel free to recruit and **let Laurie Moloney or Scott Gilyeat know.**

Q/C: Why not schedule gift bearers in advance?

A: While scheduling gift bearers in advance may seem ideal, it is not practical for regular use. We aim to keep this ministry open and available to all members of the congregation rather than assigning it selectively. For that reason, gift bearers are generally not pre-scheduled, except for special Masses such as baptisms or First Holy Communion, where specific coordination is appropriate.

Q/C: Can you please reiterate in your instructions that the cup does NOT follow any of the bread ministers when there are **only 2 cups**? It would need to be that way for any Mass that for one reason or another is short "staffed" such as a smaller Holy Day as example. Last week, we had Cup 1 do the bread ministers for Fr. Jim as normal, but instead of going to the corner as they have always done, they followed the Bread 2 to give communion to the wheelchair bound. (The remainder of the comment has not been printed due to the inclusion of individuals' names.)

A: Yes, this information will be included both in the instructions and on the information sheet posted in the vesting sacristy.

Q/C: Please make a map for when there are only two cups.

A: Yes, there will be a map located in the vesting sacristy when there are only two cups for visiting priests and Fathers Jim and Bill. It is not yet available but will be posted as soon as it is.

Q/C: Do we serve communion to families of disabled who are sitting next to the disabled?

A: If family members seated with a person with a disability indicate they wish to receive Communion by presenting their hands, please offer it to them. If they do not indicate this or are not in a position to receive in that moment, they may simply receive with the general congregation.

Q/C: I always thought that the host must be consumed instead of put down the drain. What is the preferred way?

A: You may consume it after you have finished serving. Alternatively, you may return it to the Sacristan, who will either consume it or properly dilute it with water and pour it into the sacrarium.

Q/C: Can you designate one person to lead the EMs to the front of the altar after serving and before returning to their seats?

A: Yes, Cup 1 is the minister who shall lead the ministers to bow at the altar after serving. It is written in the instructions as well as the information sheet in the vesting sacristy.

Q/C: Suggestion: Put a sign on the nursery door for parishioners to join the rest of the congregation during communion since no EM goes to the nursery to serve them communion.

A: Yes, we will put a sign on the nursery door.

Q/C: I attended the training and want to become a Eucharistic Minister. What is my next step.

A: Contact Laurie Moloney at the parish office or email her at lauriem@stjbcc.org.

NOTE: Be reminded that you are responsible for identifying and serving people with disabilities in your section. Please be attentive and ensure they are offered Communion as needed.