



## The Parish Community of St. Joseph

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October 19, 2016  
Feast of St. Isaac Jogues and Companions

Dear Eucharistic Ministers and Sacristans:

Christ's Peace!!

Great thanks to each of you for your generous service to the parish. Your efforts enrich our parishioners' experience of prayer. That truth might not always be obvious to you, but it is always true. You make a definite and positive difference in everyone's experience of Jesus Christ and His church.

Thanks too for your flexibility—in filling in at the last minute, switching stations as needed, helping out at the altar and in so many other ways. With any luck, the minor tweaks proposed below will increase clarity and reduce your need to improvise.

### 1. Medallions

Some of the more experienced sacristans have been around for decades and know most of the EMs. It is easy for them to recognize and recruit trained EMs. For the newer sacristans, the job of recruiting EMs can be a bit more arduous. Thus, we sometimes have to recruit EMs during Mass. In order to fill the roster *before* Mass starts, we will experiment with a medallion system that many parishes have used successfully.

Starting the weekend of October 22-23, you will see, as you enter the Gathering Space, a small sign board on which several medallions are hanging. The medallion board will be in place for viewing only throughout October. We will start to use the medallions the weekend of November 5-6. Here's how it will work.

- A. The sacristan on duty will put out the number of medallions indicated on the master list, "Communion Stations for each Mass." The list will be located in the coat room and in the priest's sacristy.
- B. Some of the medallions will have beige-colored lanyards. These are for bread ministers. The others will have wine-colored lanyards. These are for the wine ministers.
- C. On the back of each medallion is a position designation (e.g., B-3, W-5, etc.) indicating where you are serving. Attached to the board there will also be a laminated copy of the church map to help us all remember where each location is.
- D. There will be a new designation of "T" to designate the travelling EM (*previously position "HA"*) who serves those parishioners who may have difficulty coming to the altar to receive.
- E. After taking the medallion of your choice, please (i) put it on and (ii) sign in in the usual place. (As we get used to the system, we might determine that EMs need only carry the medallion rather than wear it. For now, please wear it.)
- F. After communion, as you return your vessel to the altar, put your medallion in the basket on the altar.

N.B. – The medallion board will be in the Gathering Space starting October 22, but we will not start using the medallions until November 5. Beginning the weekend of December 3-4, each sacristan can determine whether to use the medallion board or to recruit personally the needed number of EMs.

## 2. Additional EM Positions

Due to an increase in the number of congregants at certain Masses, we are increasing the number of EMs at those Masses. The numbers are provided on the master list, “Communion Stations for each Mass.” Until further notice, it will be helpful if Sacristans put out the number of medallions indicated on those lists. The revised sign in sheets will also reflect those numbers.

## 3. Purification of the Sacred Vessels

According to established guidelines, the sacred vessels are to be purified by a priest or deacon. There is increased emphasis on compliance with this guideline. Since we generally do not have deacons assisting at Sunday Masses, the priest needs to purify the vessels at the altar. We have been doing this for several weeks and your assistance at the altar has been a great help.

Because the vessels will have been purified before they are carried to the sacristy, EMs need only clean them for hygienic purposes, not for religious reasons. Please continue to:

- a. Wash them in soapy water and;
- b. Use only the regular sink, not the sacrarium.

Also, it is good if we carry only one vessel in each hand as we transport them to the sacristy. If we need extra hands, we can always recruit servers or others to help with the carrying.

Once again, I want you to know how very much your generous service is appreciated by me and by your fellow parishioners. Your generosity of spirit feeds Christ’s relationships with those you serve. You help all to be the Priests, Prophets and Kings Jesus calls them to be. Keep up the excellent work.

With great thanks and all best blessings,

Fr. Hank, SJ