

Ablutions

Reverent Consumption of Consecrated Elements

Episcopal Church of the Transfiguration

Regarding Solemn Eucharists

All chalices are carried from the Niche to the Altar Sacristy by the Eucharistic Ministers (EM). They are placed on the right-hand side of the sink.

When all chalices have been collected, each EM picks up a chalice and, holding it up, says, “May the Blood of Christ bring us to everlasting life.”

The wine in the chalice is then consumed or is poured into the Piscina (the sink to the right, which has a folding cover; the pipes in the Piscina lead directly to the ground). Consecrated wine is never to be poured into the main Sacristy sink, which leads to the sewer.

The following is typical after the 11:15 Service only, as well as all other major, non-Sunday feasts:

If any consecrated wine remains in a cruet or flagon, first check to see if the glass cruet in the Tabernacle needs any additional wine. It is ideal to maintain 2-3 inches of wine in the Reserved Sacrament, for use in the Eucharistic Visitor kits. If no more Reserved Sacrament is needed, the remaining wine in the cruet and/or flagon may be poured into the Piscina.

An EM now takes the Water Cruet and pours a small amount of water into each chalice and any other vessel that has contained consecrated wine or bread (including all patens and ciborium). The water is swirled around the vessel to pick up any consecrated elements and then poured into the Piscina.

As the water from all vessels that contained consecrated bread (patens and ciborium) is poured into the Piscina or consumed, the EM says, “May the Body of Christ bring us to everlasting life.”

Purificators are used to dry the cleansed vessels and are placed in the chalices and ciborium. The chalices, patens, and ciborium are placed on the towel on the counter.

When all ablutions have been performed, the EMs make the sign of the cross and say, “Blessed, praised, hallowed, and adored be Jesus Christ on his throne of glory, in the most Holy Sacraments of the Altar, and in the hearts of his faithful people.” Then they may add, “May the souls of the faithful departed rest in peace, and may light perpetual shine upon them.”

Regarding the 5:30 Eucharist

If any consecrated bread remains following the 5:30 Eucharist, it should be gathered and reverently carried to the Memorial Garden. There it should be crumbled and dispersed in the ground cover nearest the columbaria. Please be careful to shake all crumbs out in the garden, ensuring none are left in the vessel or basket. The vessel used to carry the bread to the garden may then be returned to the Sacristy and reverently cleaned, according to Altar Guild instructions for cleaning sacramental vessels.

Altar Guild members should be careful to visually scan the area in the Nave from which communion was administered, to ensure no crumbs from the Blessed Sacrament are left on the floor. If crumbs are found, please carefully gather them and dispose of in the garden as described above.

Note: the Blessed Sacrament is not food for the birds, but in a holy place returns to the elements from which it came.