

GUIDELINES, BEST PRACTICES AND SUGGESTIONS FOR ADMINISTERING THE BLOOD OF CHRIST DURING THE HOLY EUCHARIST

April 5, 2022

On Maundy Thursday the prohibition on drinking from the common cup/chalice is removed. Parishes and missions are encouraged, but not required, to return to offering the wine to communicants from a common cup for those desiring to receive the sacrament in this fashion. Where worship communities decide to return to offering the common cup, you are encouraged, but not required, to offer an opportunity for intinction separate from a common cup/chalice.

Until new guidelines are issued sometime before Pentecost, local worship communities may elect to administer the Eucharist in the following ways:

1. You may continue to offer bread only with only the celebrant receiving from the chalice.
2. (a) You may offer the bread and a chalice for drinking at the altar rail, as well as provide a separate station for bread and a shallow dish for individual intinction. By providing a very shallow dish, we preserve the symbolism of a common cup while also preventing the experience of fingers accidentally touching the wine. This station could be at the foot of the steps to the chancel or on a side altar or any area convenient to those existing the chancel with bread.

(b) Where the above is not practical due to space or lack of enough trained eucharistic ministers, you may offer bread and the common cup at the altar and create a separate station only for intinction from a shallow dish. Individuals not wishing to drink from a common cup will receive only the bread at the altar rail and proceed to the station with wine.
3. Other options: There may be creative variations on these general principals, such as places where a eucharistic minister uses a small spoon to place a small drop of wine upon bread already placed upon a palm. Local leadership may continue to provide wine for those who bring a small vessel/cup forward and receive a small amount of wine from a cruet containing the consecrated wine. We prefer that you move away entirely from blessing prepackaged bread and wine or small individual cups in trays on the altar and back to our traditional practice of blessing one chalice and enough necessary flagons or cruets of wine.

We appreciate that choreography will vary but hope that local leadership will observe the best practice of separating intinction from the common cup. For this next period, please do not return to the practice of allowing individuals to dip their bread individually into a chalice from which others are drinking.