Purification Guidelines

All Sacred Vessels (chalices and patens) must be purified after Mass. There is a distinction between "purifying" the Sacred Vessels and "cleaning" them:

- The "purification" of the Sacred Vessels means adding water to the Sacred Vessels and then consuming the remains of the consecrated Body and Precious Blood. A prayer is said during purification.
- The "cleaning" of sacred vessels means washing the Sacred Vessels after they have been purified.

The following is the procedure to be used by the Extraordinary Ministers[1]:

- Before Mass the Mass Coordinators should ensure that the small cruets on the Credence Tables contain enough water for Mass and for purification.
- After distribution of the Holy Eucharist, the Precious Blood must be reverently consumed by the EMs at the Credence Tables. An EM can ask for assistance from another EM if there is too much Precious Blood to be consumed by one person.
- After consumption of the Precious Blood, the purificators should be refolded and placed over the unpurified chalices so that the purificators hang over the sides of the chalices. The purificators should not be stuffed into the chalices.

- The purification of the Sacred Vessels will reverently and silently take place at the Credence Tables after the Mass. Before purifying, each EMs will silently recite the Purification Prayer: *"What has passed our lips as food, O Lord, may we possess in purity of heart, that what has been given to us in time may be our healing for eternity.*[2]
- To purify the patens, a small amount of water should be placed in the patens and gently swirled around so that all particles are absorbed by the water. The water is then poured directly into the chalices to be consumed.
- To purify the chalices, water is added to the chalices and swirled around the sides so that the remaining Precious Blood gets combined with the water. The EM then drinks most of the ablution, leaving a small amount to clean the rim and the outside of the chalice with the purificator. The chalice should then be completely wiped dry with the purificator.
- After purifying the Sacred Vessels, the EMs will take the chalices to the Work Sacristy for their "first rinse" by the sacrarium and to be washed and dried in preparation for the next Mass or for storage. After purification the patens only need to be "first rinsed" and washed after the last Mass for storage. The regular double sink in the Work Sacristy will be used for washing and drying all the Sacred Vessels.
- The used purificators also get rinsed in the sacrarium. Place a stopper in the sacrarium and pour in water. Rinse the purificators and wring dry as much as you can. Shout can be sprayed for any lipstick stains. Do NOT re-rinse in the sacrarium. Hang purificators on racks to dry.

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[1] A visiting priest/deacon/acolyte may purify the Sacred Vessels.

[2] A copy of the Purification Prayer will be on the Credence Table. Extra purification prayer cards are available upon request.