

Oblation (bread and wine) Bearers

Oblation Bearers carry the bread and wine offerings from the table behind the lectern to the altar when the offertory is finished. The bread and wine that become our sacramental reminder of God's presence come from the ordinary food of the people. By carrying these offerings forward, we remind ourselves of this.

- During the Peace, move to the small table where the elements are placed, directly behind the lectern. Four people serving as Offertory Collectors will join you.
- Remain side by side behind the table where the elements are placed until the offering is finished.
- When the offering is finished and all the gifts are ready to be brought to the altar, begin carrying the bread and wine forward on the Presider's cue. You will be followed by two people carrying the offertory baskets.
- Always watch the Presider. Don't begin walking the elements forward to the altar until those collecting the offering have finished passing the baskets and you have received the Presider's cue.
- The two Oblation Bearers of the elements walk forward side by side, one carrying the bread and one carrying the wine, following the zinc line in the center.
- When they get to the front of the altar, pass the elements to Eucharistic Ministers A and B, who are in front of the altar to receive the oblations. Pass the bread first, then pass the wine. The Eucharistic Ministers will pass the elements off to the Presider, who remains behind the altar.
- Take a step to the left and right to make room for the two Offertory Collectors.
- Allow time for the Offertory Collectors to give the baskets to the Eucharistic Ministers. The Offertory Collectors will turn and then return via the center zinc line back to the lectern/pulpit. The Oblation Bearers will follow the Offertory Collectors back. Once you reach the lectern, then return to your seats.

Offertory Collectors

Offertory Collectors help gather the money offerings and pledges during the offertory. The gathering of these gifts helps others observe the spiritual practice of giving and enables Grace Church to carry out its various ministries of inclusion, service, discovery and gratitude.

- For a regular 9:30 service, we have four Offertory Collectors who work in teams of two. One team serves the classroom side of the sanctuary; the other team works together to serve the Walker Hall side.
- During the Peace, all four Offertory Collectors will move to the small table where the baskets are placed, directly behind the lectern. They will pick up one basket each, gathering two by two, beside each other.
- As soon as the offertory hymn begins, proceed forward two by two following the zinc line in the center. When you near the front, one team moves toward the front row of seats on the classroom side. The other team moves toward the front row of seats on the Walker Hall side.
- Always start at the FRONT: FRONT of Sanctuary. FRONT of each section of seats. That way people see the basket coming and collection flows much smoother. The pattern also lets the pianist know where the offertory is and how long to play the music.
- Do one section of chairs at a time, with one collector at each end of the rows. The most efficient way is to start two baskets going opposite directions in adjacent rows.
- If a row has too few people to pass it all the way down the row to the other side, then the offertory collector can offer the basket to the congregants near them and receive the basket back from them.
- In either case, the two people collecting the offerings should stay together as a team serving only one or two rows at a time. Don't get ahead of each other. Watch each other, watch the distribution and movement of the baskets, and then move patiently in sync with each other from row to row as a team.
- Serve each section together, moving from the front of the sanctuary to the rear near the entry doors.
- If it is clear that no one in a given row has an offering, it is ok to skip that row and move on.

- There are more chairs on the classroom side of the sanctuary, so the offertory collectors may finish on the Walker Hall side first. When that happens, the two Offertory Collectors on the side that finishes first wait in the rear at the small table for the other side to finish.
- When all four baskets/collectors are together at the back, consolidate the baskets into two stacks, one basket on top of another. Do not pour the contents of one basket into another. Simply stack the baskets. It represents abundance.
- Only two of the Offertory Collectors will bring the baskets forward toward the altar. The other two will simply return to their seats when the others start moving forward.
- When the Presider/Priest gives the cue to move forward, the two Oblation Bearers will carry forward the elements, followed by the two Offertory Collectors who will each be carrying two stacked baskets.
- Wait as the Oblation Bearers pass the bread and wine to the Eucharistic Ministers. The Bearers will step aside. Then Offertory Collectors will step forward to pass the baskets to the Eucharistic Oblation Ministers.
- When you've passed the offerings to the Eucharistic Ministers, turn and recede back to the lectern following the center zinc line. The Oblation Bearers will follow you. Then once you've reached the lectern, disperse from there to your seats.