

Dear Eucharistic Ministers,

As I thank you for your dedicated service and wish you and your loved ones many blessings at this special time, I announce herein an upcoming adjustment for you to make during Mass at the time of Communion. This is being implemented to minimize the risk of priests and deacons tripping or falling on the sanctuary steps during the Communion process. We've had a few close calls lately! Consequently, beginning with the Christmas Masses and going forward, EM's are to do the following:

- 1) Go up to the sanctuary and stand in a line between the ambo and the altar to receive Communion at that new spot
- 2) Wait there to receive the ciborium for distribution from the priest or deacon
- 3) Descend the sanctuary to go to your designated distribution spot
- 4) Return to the new spot with your ciborium in the sanctuary where you received Communion
- 5) Wait there until the priest or deacon takes the ciborium from you (do not place the ciborium on the altar or take it to the tabernacle area)
- 6) Once the priest or deacon reposes the Eucharist and closes the tabernacle, descend the sanctuary to return to your seat

This is very similar to the procedures that were in place before COVID. It is very important that, in keeping with proper liturgical norms, Eucharistic ministers never place anything on the altar or approach the tabernacle area during the Mass (unless the priest is incapacitated).

Thank you for your understanding and cooperation. Most of all, once again, thank you for your loyal support and service to our parish. It is always a pleasure to serve with you! Enjoy your Christmas!

Blessings,

Father Alvarez

