



HOLY ROSARY CATHOLIC CHURCH

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My Holy Rosary family,

Glory to Jesus Christ!

During Holy Mass over the last year, maybe you have noticed that there has been an increase in parishioners (especially young adults and young families) choosing to kneel before the Blessed Sacrament when they come forward to receive Holy Communion. This is not a surprise, as the practice of kneeling to receive the Eucharist has long been a part of the life of the Church. While, in more recent times, the Church has allowed people to stand for the reception of Holy Communion still the option of kneeling to receive has always remained possible. For as the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith has stated, “the practice of kneeling for Holy Communion has in its favor a centuries-old tradition, and it is a particularly expressive sign of adoration, completely appropriate in light of the true, real and substantial presence of Our Lord Jesus Christ under the consecrated species”

In light of this; I feel that as some are choosing this posture of kneeling needs to be rightly acknowledged. For over the past few months, I have received several letters from our parishioners requesting that a prie-dieu (kneeler) to be placed near the sanctuary so that those who wish to do so may devoutly and safely receive the Body and Blood of Jesus Christ on their knees. I agree with their request, for according to the General Instruction to the Roman Missal #160, I indeed should provide a way for all to receive Holy Communion, either standing or kneeling. Therefore, beginning Holy Thursday, the day that our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ celebrated the Last Supper and instituted the Eucharist, at every Mass a kneeler will be positioned near the places from which Holy Communion is administered so that any who would like to kneel can more easily do so. Likewise, any who prefer to stand will continue to be able to do so. In this way, all our parishioners will be able to receive Holy Communion in a preferred way.

Finally, we should remember that as we approach the sacred Body and Blood of Christ in Holy Communion, whether we choose to kneel or stand to receive, we should do so, free from all mortal sin with the highest reverence possible. For we need to remember that He whom we receive is our God and King and who deserves our deepest respect and reverence.

May the peace of Christ be with you and your loved ones this Holy Week, throughout the Easter season and always!

Fr. Patrick Gallagher

Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us now and at the hour of our death.