



St. Mary's Catholic Church

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My Dear People of God,

It is with joy that I announce St. Mary's will resume offering Holy Communion under both species, the Precious Body and the Precious Blood of our Lord Jesus Christ, beginning at all Masses July 2, 2023, the 13th Sunday in Ordinary Time.

Since the lifting of most pandemic-related restrictions in the Diocese of Richmond, Most Reverend Bishop Barry Knestout issued a statement May 10th granting permission for parishes to resume offering the Precious Blood beginning Pentecost Sunday. Pastors were asked to consult with staff members, parish advisory bodies, and volunteer ministers to determine whether or not it is the appropriate time within their community to begin offering Communion under both species.

I invited St. Mary's Eucharistic Ministers of Holy Communion to meet with me June 6th to review *The Norms for the Distribution and Reception of Holy Communion under Both Kinds in the Dioceses of the United States*. This was also an opportunity for me to hear from our volunteer ministers about their safety concerns and who among them are willing to serve the Precious Blood post-pandemic. After careful consideration, we have determined that beginning the weekend of July 2nd, two Eucharistic Ministers will be assigned at each weekend liturgy to begin serving the Precious Blood.

I wish to remind you, "*The Church has always taught the doctrine of concomitance, by which we know that under each species alone, the whole Christ is sacramentally present and we receive all the fruit of Eucharistic grace.*" (#15 *Norms for the Distribution and Reception of Holy Communion under Both Kinds in the Dioceses of the United States of America.*) If at this time you are not comfortable receiving

under both kinds, please feel free to receive Holy Communion under the form of Bread alone.

I also extend an invitation to you to prayerfully consider volunteering to serve St. Mary's Community as a Eucharistic Minister of Holy Communion. We provide sufficient spiritual, theological and practical preparation to fulfill the ministry with knowledge and reverence, and we welcome your participation in this ministry.

Yours in Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'John Asare', written in a cursive style.

Fr. John Asare, V.F.