



## Mass Parts 46/52: *Communion Procession*

We need to remember that the Mass is the perfect form of prayer and liturgy. Many different types of prayer happen throughout our hour together. There is time for singing and silence, and time for movement and stillness. While we approach the altar to receive Communion, we are part of a Communion Procession. The communal / community aspect of this Procession places the focus on the whole group of people together, praying for each other. It is not time for just our own personal prayer; it is time for our communal prayer and rejoicing.

There should always be some setting of music during the Communion Procession. I encourage our music ministry to select songs for Communion that everyone knows well or with a repeating and simple to learn refrain. This is so that all participants in the Procession can continue to sing without the need of a book. The entire congregation should be singing during the Procession. We support other people with song as they are receiving the Eucharist, just as they will then support us as we receive. This is not the time for silence, introspection, or keeping our eyes closed to what is going on around us.

Our attitude while processing should be influenced by the fact that we are walking up towards the altar of our Savior. We have been invited to walk from the place we were, the places we all come from, and approach the very throne of God. Once up front, we receive our salvation into our bodies.

The Procession does not end for you when you receive the Eucharist. It continues until everyone has received and the priest returns to the chair. Keep the singing going throughout the whole time for the Procession. Keep your attention on the community and the whole Body of Christ present.

Once the priest returns to the chair, now is the time for quiet and reflection. I always try to give adequate time to make a quiet prayer of thanksgiving for having received the Body of Christ. Now is the time for self and introspection.

-Fr. Kopp

Next Week: Prayer After Communion