

## **FIRST COMMUNION PROCEDURE**

**May 6, 2017**

### ENTRANCE

Children will gather in the Social Hall at least 30 minutes prior to Mass, and then be escorted by an adult helper to the rear of the Church. They will be walking in the processional, directly in front of Father Mark. When they reach the front of the Church, the right line processes to the right toward the font (similar for the left), until all children are lined up across the front of the Church *facing the altar*. After Father venerates the altar, and the altar ministers start to move, all children turn and go to their assigned pews. **Remember to leave a space at the end of your pew for your own child – the First Communion children all sit on the inside end of the pews.**

### COMMUNION

**Children will be receiving communion first.** Adult helpers will escort all children forward, where they will receive the Body of Christ from either Father Mark or Father Matt, and then they will move to the side to receive the precious blood from a communion minister. The child then returns to their pew at the outside aisle. After all children receive, the families are invited to come forward to receive communion also. When the families return to the pew from the outside aisle, the child resumes their original position on the inside end of the pew. The Ushers will be very helpful in assisting you in this.

### CLOSING

After the closing prayer, Father Mark will call all of the First Communion children forward. The children will stand on the steps *facing the congregation* (boys – upper steps, girls – lower steps and floor). Father Mark will remain with the children during the postlude music while the altar minister and altar servers leave. *After this, you may take all the pictures and/or video that you want while the children are posed on the steps. This is your photo opportunity – Also, please feel free to take group and/or individual pictures anywhere in the Church after Mass.*

### AFTER MASS

Regardless of whether your family is staying for the reception, please return to the Social Hall to pick up your child's First Communion certificate and a small gift from the Parish. Please don't forget to take your child's banner with you too.