

## PASTOR'S COLUMN

*Presentation on Mass, Dinner & Devotion, A Request by Fr. T*

Presentation on the Mass. The Church teaches that the Mass and Holy Eucharist are the “source and summit” of the Catholic faith. They are our most important time of prayer and communion with God. And yet, there are people for whom the Mass is routine, formulaic and even boring. Several times in my priesthood, people have asked me, “Father, how can I get more out of the Mass?”

That question will be the topic of a presentation by Fr. Nile Gross on Saturday, February 2, from 9:30–11:30AM in church: “How to get more out of the Mass.” Fr. Nile is the Director of Worship for the Archdiocese and Professor of Liturgy and Sacraments at Notre Dame Seminary. He is a native of New Orleans, a graduate of Tulane, and has degrees from Notre Dame Seminary and Santa Croce University in Rome.

Fr. Nile gave a presentation to the Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion this past Fall on various aspects of the Mass and on serving at Mass. Those who attended loved his talks. Fr. Nile will expand his presentation for our parish by explaining the sacrifice of the Mass and offering ways to prepare for and participate well in the sacred liturgy. Come to this free event and learn how to get “more” out of the Mass.

Dinner and Devotion. On Friday, February 8, at 6:30 pm in St. Joseph Hall, our parish will host “Dinner and Devotion.” There will be a gourmet meal by parishioner, David McDonald, together with a presentation by Fr. Tony Rigoli, O.M.I., on “How Catholics are called to celebrate in New Orleans.” Fr. Tony is Pastor at Guadalupe Shrine in New Orleans and a very popular speaker. The cost of the evening (including dinner) is only \$10, which is payable by January 30. Everyone is invited. Come out and socialize with friends, enjoy a great meal, and grow in knowledge of the Catholic faith New Orleans-style.

A Request by Fr. T. Last summer, Fr. T retired at the age of 82 after faithfully serving at St. Francis for 31 years. Since then, Fr. T continues to receive many requests for sacramental ministry. He asked me to put this statement in the bulletin: “I am happily retired and I am happy with the Archbishop’s choice of Fr. Joe and Fr. Thien to succeed me at St. Francis. Although I deem it a great honor when SFX parishioners ask me to perform sacraments for their family, I ask that all future requests for funerals, weddings and baptisms at St. Francis be directed first to Fr. Joe and Fr. Thien. If they need my assistance due to unavailability or prior commitments, then I will step in to assist. Thank you for honoring my wishes in this matter.”

God bless,  
Fr. Joe