

A Letter from Our Pastoral Coordinator

Nov. 25, 2018



May Christ's peace, joy and hope be with you all!

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ:

When I was appointed to be the pastoral leader of both Holy Rosary and Visitation parishes by Archbishop Sartain, I knew so little of each community.

One of the aspects of each of these communities that I admire is the strong desire for reverence at liturgy. I support this completely. Reverence for the Sacrament of the Eucharist is critically important since our Church teaches from the Catholic Catechism, "the Eucharist is the source and summit of the Christian life. The other sacraments, and indeed all ecclesiastical ministries and works of the apostolate, are bound up with the Eucharist and are oriented toward it. For in the blessed Eucharist is contained the whole spiritual good of the Church, namely Christ himself, our Pasch" (CCC ¶ 1324).

Thus we must continually work on reverence because our devotion to Christ Jesus is so critical in our being faithful disciples. It is easy to take the sacred liturgy for granted since we are so familiar with it. We must be reverent to the space itself, reverent toward the music we sing by participating in it, reverent toward one another, reverent toward the actions of the ministers and the dialogue between the priest and the congregation, reverent toward the Word of God proclaimed so that we receive it as fully as possible, reverent toward the Eucharist we receive, and reverent and open to the task we are given to take Christ into the world. Our ministers at the liturgy, the priest and/or deacon, the readers and extraordinary ministers of the Eucharist, musicians, the acolytes, and our ushers and greeters all have important roles to play.

This respect is not just local however, it's also part of the Archdiocese and the universal church. Archbishop Sartain is the chief liturgist of all the local parishes. He sets the tone, he sets policies for all of us in every area of parish ministry and we are obliged to follow his lead especially in our celebrations of the Eucharist. Fr. Martin, Deacon Mike and I are his canonical agents, as are all priests and deacons, with faculties to administer the sacraments, as well as lead and minister according to the appointment of the Archbishop.

To be in line with the guidelines of the bishops of the United States and this Archdiocese, starting with the first Sunday of Advent, Dec. 1-2, we will stand when we approach to receive Holy Communion. You may receive in the hand or on the tongue. For those who wish, you may still opt to kneel at the communion rail (at Visitation) or at the predieux (at Holy Rosary) and receive on the tongue or in hand.

In addition, we will no longer be saying the Anima Christi or the St. Michael prayers following communion or at the end of mass. There has been some confusion about these practices but they are not a part of the Sacred Liturgy. Those are both great prayers but are prayer choices for personal piety. I encourage you to say that either prayer or both by yourself privately following communion or any other time.

In God's great love, hope and mercy,

Deacon Jim

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