

JMJ

Dear Parishioners,

As we continue along, here is a reflection again why we are praying facing the East together. It was interesting to note that Father Csete told me that during his recent trip to Hungary and Austria most parishes there have adopted *ad orientem* worship. Mass facing the people is a modern phenomenon. It was largely unknown in the ancient world. Back in the 1960s and 70s it was widely thought that the early Christians faced each other for the Mass. But these conclusions were based on dubious theories about Masses celebrated in the days of persecution in the so-called “house churches” where the faithful gathered in secrecy for Mass. The ancient Christians did not call these places “house churches” but rather, the *Domus Dei* (the house of God). The term “house church” conjures up informality and fueled an emphasis on the Mass as a simple meal. But such liturgies were anything but informal and meal-like. The descriptions we have of them indicate a great deal of formality, and as ancient texts and recent archeological findings in places like Dura Europa show, the liturgy was directed eastward.

Now, you ought to face east to pray, for, as you know, scripture has it, Give praise to God who ascends above the highest heavens to the east... And if there is one to be found who is not sitting in his place let the deacon who is within, rebuke him, and make him to rise and sit in his fitting place... Likewise, the deacon ought to see that there are none who whisper or sleep or laugh or nod off. For in the Church it is necessary to have discipline, sober vigilance, and attentive ear to the Word of the Lord. So presumptions that the early Masses were informal meal-like experiences around tables do not seem to be born up by evidences such as this.

Orientation is about the Cross, not the compass. While it is true that the ancient Church, and many ancient peoples faced east, toward the rising sun to pray, and while this remains ideal today, it is not always possible to position buildings “compass-east.” As people settled in cities, the city grid did not always permit the orienting of the church’s apse to the East. Thus, As Cardinals Ratzinger and others have pointed out, the cross came to take on the point of focus and became a sort of Liturgical East. All faced the crucifix to pray.

Later as tabernacles came to occupy a space in the center of the altar, the Crucifix, altar and the tabernacle were all aligned on the same axis. This remains an ideal combination today and the bishops have rightly encouraged us to have our tabernacles in the central axis of the Church where it can be truly central and prominent.

Thus the happy coincidence occurs that we face the altar, the tabernacle and the crucifix. Here are two symbols of Christ, and one his true presence. Jesus Christ is the center of our life, as such wherever we face, when we face him, we are properly oriented.

It is for reasons such as this that Cardinal Ratzinger (who also preferred that we should one day return to the common eastward orientation) encouraged that, even when Mass was said facing toward the people, a crucifix should be placed on the altar to remind us that we are facing the Lord, not each other. Through Christ our Lord. The Eucharistic Prayer is wholly directed to the Father. Thus why do we face Christ? Simply put, we pray to the Father through Christ our Lord. Thus our prayer of adoration and gratitude in the Eucharistic Prayer is directed to the Father, but is directed there through Christ our Lord. We the members of Christ’s Body look to the Father through Jesus, and speak to him through Jesus. We gaze upon him as it were, up and through Christ on the Cross. Visually we are reminded of all this by the Crucifix, Tabernacle and altar we face together.

I stand with you! As a priest and a pastor I have a complex relationship with the congregation in the sacred liturgy. As the celebrant of the Mass I act in the person of Christ the Head, and thus I am a sacrament and sign of his presence as the true High Priest of every liturgy. Christ stands at the head of us looking to the Father and offering him perfect praise. We behind him look also to the Father.

So, as a priest I am for the congregation the celebrant and a sign of the presence of Christ. But with you the congregation I am a brother. Thus, I, like them stand before God like a blind beggar or a languishing leper. I stand before the crucifix, I stand before the Lord, seeking and pleading for his mercy and grace. This is more beautifully symbolized by us having a common “eastward” stance before God looking for the Lord to return and begging mercy and grace in the meantime.

Christ will come again. The Crucifix is more than a reminder of the historical fact of the Passion. The crucifix points to the whole paschal mystery: the passion and death, resurrection and ascension. Further, the crucifix also has an eschatological significance that Christ will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead. As such, when we look to the cross we look for Jesus to come again. We proclaim your death O Lord, and profess your resurrection, Until you come.

Facing the Cross together we communally look for Christ to come again. This beautiful and happy thought is also declared in the embolism of the Our Father, where we await the blessed hope and the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. Yes, together we stand looking to the east: “When will he come?!” Come Lord Jesus! And may you find us looking for you, in joyful hope.

Sincerely yours in Christ,
Father Newcomb

The 2nd collection this weekend is for the Pastoral Solidarity for the Church in Africa.

A very special thank you to Very Reverend Father Dan O'Hare for blessing Most Sacred Heart Hall and celebrating the Mass. Also to Grand Knight Steve Riordan for organizing and cooking the food, Regent Debbie Di Toto for getting volunteers, Cheryl Lovelace, Danielle Legato, Barbara Heckman, for organizing the decorations, setup and cleanup, Jake Moore for cooking cleanup, Eileen and Carmody and Irene Klostermeier for helping set up. Deacon Rich for organizing and doing everything to get the stain glass up and icons, Tony Collado for all his cleaning and waxing, the Webb and Scibek families for cleaning Joseph Gurliacci for being the dishwasher. It was a great night!



In observance of Independence Day, the parish office will be closed on **Tuesday, July 4th.**

There will be **First Friday Adoration on July 7th.** Please see the sign up sheets in the narthex.



The Mount Carmel Society will have their annual procession from their hall to our Church on Sunday, July 16th for the Feast of Our Lady of Mount Carmel. Procession will begin at 8:00am. They will be joining us for the 8:30am Mass.

St. Mary's Little Lambs has begun accepting registrations for the 2017-18 school year. For more information, parents of prospective students are encouraged to contact director, Eileen Carmody at 858-4208 or littlelambs@stmarysportjervis.com



This year's trip to Dorney Park and Wildwater Kingdom is on **Monday, July 31st.** Children who have faithfully served our church through S.M.A.R.T., G.E.M.S., Altar serving, or in the choir are invited to attend. Please call the parish office for a permission form. All permission forms are due back by **July 14.**



Save the Date!
Monday, Sept. 17th is our **Annual Parish Picnic** at **Riverside Park.**



There are **Announced Mass Intentions** available for Weekday Masses for this year.

Mark your calendars!

The 2018 Mass Book will open on:

Wednesday, September 12th from 9:30am-12:30pm
Thursday, September 13th from 9:30am-12:30pm and from 5:30pm-7:30pm.

ANNOUNCED MASSES

- Monday, July 3 (Thomas the apostle)**
9:00am Anna Brink, by her daughters
- Tuesday, July 4**
9:00am Robert Ritchie, by Sophie Crawford –Rosso
Giusseppe Fiorillo, by Josephine Fiorillo
- Wednesday, July 5 (Anthony Zaccaria, priest; Elizabeth of Portugal)**
9:00am Deceased members of the Corrado family, by Agnes and Mary
- Thursday, July 6 (Maria Goretti, virgin)**
9:00am Deceased members of the McCaffrey & Winter families, by Gregory, Robert, Jim, and Leiher
- Friday, July 7**
11:30am Nicholas Barranta, by Ed and Kathleen
Joseph Brennan, by Mary and Darren Case
- Saturday, July 8**
4:00pm Pauline, Peter, and Paul Ruggiero, by Darren and Mary Case
- Sunday, July 9**
8:30am Angelina Capra, by the Capra family
11:30am The parishioners of St. Mary's
Dennis Simmons, by Dorean and Jack Reilly and family
1:30pm *Hungarian Mass*



The Sanctuary Lamp will burn brightly this week in the Church, in memory of Joseph Belloto, by Sally and family.

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE SICK: Joann Wilcox, Jackie Mundy, Theresa Fuller, Donald Wolff, Walter Szpakowicz, Frances Brennan, Aedan Roach, Jim Roach, Robyn Radzikowski, Elizabeth Brennan, Richard Samek, Sandy Osbourne, John McKeon, William Lincoln, Michael Barnes, Jeanine Lincoln, Maureen Hildebrandt, Andrea Fedoruk, Angela Portella, Pauline Portella, Grace Maillet, Joseph Cox, William Gaide, Jacqueline Hamilton, Marianne Ripel, Pat Arnold, Debi Cotugno, Conner McHugh, David M. Phillips, Jim Muller, Charles Hildebrandt, Joe Formisano, Theresa Kavanagh, Fontano family, Kevin Smith, Ron Evans, Barbara Straub, Flossie Brown, Mae Prill, Elizabeth Startup Jones, Jose Ramos, Carmen Ramos, Steve Wilkinson, Eric Santiago, Adam Kowal, Jayne Kowal, Amelia Quinn, Jennifer Utz, Sue Arnold, Sue Fitzsimmons, Wayne Demarco, Pat Essing, William Thomas, and Thomas Davies.

The collection for June 24/25 was \$4,762.50.
Thank you for your continued generosity.

Liturgical Ministers for July 8th/9th, 2017

MASS	LECTOR	MINISTERS OF HOLY COMMUNION	ALTAR SERVERS
4:00PM	T. WEBB	K. BOBISH, W. PONDS, A. WITKOWSKI	E. AND A. WITKOWSKI, A. WEBB
8:30AM	M. LATINI	S. RIORDAN, J. TAYLOR	T. LAMOREAUX, D. TRUJILLO, S. PHILLIPS
11:30AM	M. ESLING	M. ADAMCIK, D. LIVINGSTON, T. MARION	DJ PERRIN, A. EPPS, M. FEDRIZZI