

JMJ

Dear Parishioners,

The Liturgical Year is winding down fast. I have been praying over a proposal that Cardinal Sarah invited the Church and specifically priests to ponder this coming year. His strong suggestion is to pray the Mass ad orientem (to the East). Some have said in the past that this is the priest facing his back to the people, but that is a great misinterpretation of facing East and how the liturgy is to be prayed. Starting the First Sunday of Advent I will be praying Mass facing East and most of this next year I will devote to liturgical teachings in my bulletin blurbs. Just a little background, Robert Cardinal Sarah is the Prefect of the Congregation for Divine Worship and the Discipline of the Sacraments. I'm sure some of you have heard of him. He recently wrote a great book entitled *God or Nothing*. I will share some excerpts from his talk he gave this past summer on the liturgy and why priests should face East.

It is essential that we understand this specificity of Catholic worship, for in recent decades we have seen many liturgical celebrations where people, personalities and human achievements have been too prominent, almost to the exclusion of God. As Cardinal Ratzinger once wrote: "If the liturgy appears first of all as the workshop for our activity, then what is essential is being forgotten: God. For the liturgy is not about us, but about God. Forgetting about God is the most imminent danger of our age."

*I raise this possibility of looking again at the Constitution and at the reform which followed its promulgation because I do not think that we can honestly read even the first article of Sacrosanctum Concilium today and be content that we have achieved its aims. My brothers and sisters, where are the faithful of whom the Council Fathers spoke? Many of the faithful are now unfaithful: they do not come to the liturgy at all. To use the words of St John Paul II: "Forgetfulness of God led to the abandonment of man. It is therefore no wonder that in this context a vast field has opened for the unrestrained development of nihilism in philosophy, of relativism in values and morality, and of pragmatism – and even a cynical hedonism – in daily life. European culture gives the impression of 'silent apostasy' on the part of people who have all that they need and who live as if God does not exist" (Apostolic Exhortation, *Ecclesia in Europa*, 28 June 2003, 9). Where is the unity the Council hoped to achieve? We have not yet reached it. Have we made real progress in calling the whole of mankind into the household of the Church? I do not think so. And yet we have done very much to the liturgy!*

In my 47 years of life as a priest and after more than 36 years of episcopal ministry I can attest that many Catholic communities and individuals live and pray the liturgy as reformed following the Council with fervour and joy, deriving from it many, if not all, of the goods that the Council Fathers desired. This is a great fruit of the Council. But from my experience I also know—now also through my service as Prefect of the Congregation for Divine Worship and the Discipline of the Sacraments—that there are many distortions of the liturgy throughout the Church today, and there are many situations that could be improved so that the aims of the Council can be achieved. Before I reflect on some possible improvements, let us consider what happened following the promulgation of the Constitution on the Sacred Liturgy.

*I want to make an appeal to all priests. You may have read my article in *L'Osservatore Romano* one year ago (12 June 2015) or my interview with the journal *Famille Chrétienne* in May of this year. On both occasions I said that I believe that it is very important that we return as soon as possible to a common orientation, of priests and the faithful turned together in the same direction—Eastwards or at least towards the apse—to the Lord who comes, in those parts of the liturgical rites when we are addressing God. This practice is permitted by current liturgical legislation. It is perfectly legitimate in the modern rite. Indeed, I think it is a very important step in ensuring that in our celebrations the Lord is truly at the centre.*

Sincerely yours in Christ,
Father Newcomb

The 2nd collection this weekend is for Human Development. Please give it your prayerful consideration.



Join us Sunday, November 27th
for the *All You Can Eat Breakfast* 

A special thank you to the following parishioners who helped repair the garage roof:
Michael Cuello, John York, Tim Webb, and John Gurliacci.

We are still collecting non-perishable items for our Christmas food baskets. Please help us fight hunger in our community.

On **Thursday, December 15th at 4pm**, we will be collecting, turkeys, hams, and chickens in the church hall.



St. Nicholas Faire Sunday, December 4th from
9:30 a.m.-2:00 p.m.

Vendors! Food! Fun! Fellowship! Young Living Essential Oils, Holy Bears, Rosaries by Colleen, Lula Roe, Pampered Chef, Mouseworks, Solaria Farms, 31 Gifts, Tupperware, Local Crafters, Free Raffles, Free Children's Christmas Craft table, A visit from St. Nicholas, **Special Performance by St. Mary's Children's Choir**, and MORE!



Join us on Thursday, Dec. 8th after the 7 pm Mass in the church hall for coffee, wine, and dessert to honor the Feast of the Immaculate Conception. RSVP to the parish office no later than Friday, December 2nd with number of people attending.



Breakfast with Santa
hosted by the Knights of Columbus
Place: St. Mary's Church Hall
Date: December 11, 2016
Time: 8am-12pm

Pancakes, sausage, juice, coffee, hot chocolate
\$7 for adults/ \$5 for kids ***Under 3 free****
All donations will benefit the St. Mary's Food Pantry
Please bring your camera- photo opportunities with Santa!
For more information call: Anthony DiToto- 845-856-8996

St. James Church in Montague is having a Christmas Bazaar on Saturday, Dec. 3rd from 9am-3pm

The collection for Human Development provides funding for groups that make lasting change and uplift the poor in the United States, CCHD's grants improve education, support economic development, and create affordable housing in low income neighborhoods. Help us continue to defend human dignity and build communities of solidarity. Please give to the CCHD collection.

ANNOUNCED MASSES

Monday, November 21 (Presentation of the BVM)
9:00am Olga Agnes, by Deacon Rich and Joanne Marino

William E Monahan, by Simmons family

Tuesday, November 22 (Cecilia, virgin & martyr)
9:00am Julius Tenke, by Bob and Betty V.

Wednesday, November 23 (Clement I, pope & martyr; Columban, abbot; Blessed Miguel Agustin Pro, priest and martyr)

9:00am Marina Santiago, by Enid Decker & fam.

Thursday, November 24 (Andrew Dung-lac, priest & companions, martyrs)

9:00am Mary McLaughlin, by Rayola McLaughlin

Joseph Belloto, by Tom and Carol Hoppey

Saturday, November 26

4:00pm Stephanie Tooley, by the family

Sunday, November 27 (1st Sunday of Advent)

8:30am Marilyn Hinkley, by Diane and Paul Hartmann

11:30am The parishioners of St. Mary's



The Sanctuary Lamp will burn brightly this week in the Church, in Thanksgiving, by Dick and Barbara Drew.

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE SICK: Ida Lissner, Joann Wilcox, Nick Moscatiello, Jackie Mundy, Theresa Fuller, Allan Van Starrex, Donald Wolff, Walter Szpakowicz, Frances Brennan, Jose Ramos, Aedan Roach, Jim Roach, Robyn Radzikowski, Joseph Brennan, Betty Brennan, Richard Samek, Sandy Osbourne, John McKeon, William Lincoln, Michael Barnes, Jeanine Lincoln, Mary Platania, Angela Grillo, Ruth Lewis, Anthony Medaglia, Maureen Hildebrandt, Robert Cinerar, Andrea Fedoruk, Angela Portella, Pauline Portella, Steve Wilkinson, Grace Maillet, Joseph Cox, William Gaide, Jacqueline Hamilton, Ashley Avella, Robert Semerano, Christina Greeves, Amelia Quinn, Marianne Ripel, Dennis Curtin, Joseph Livingston, Donna Bancala, Leonard Schweizer, Teddy Mead, Pat Arnold, Angela Lillo, Pat Muller, Debi Cotugno, Theresa Kavanagh, Tom Earley, Conner McHugh, Bobby Fett, Sue Arnold, Dennis Perrin, Gary Lopriore, Josephine Fiorillo, and Carol Tufano.

The collection for November 12/13 was \$5,908.50.
Thank you for your continued generosity.

Liturgical Ministers for November 26/27, 2016

MASS	LECTOR	MINISTERS OF HOLY COMMUNION	ALTAR SERVERS
4:00PM	P. CAL	H. ECKES, W. PONDS, A. WITKOWSKI	V., E., A. WITKOWSKI
8:30AM	T. WEBB	T. CALVARIO, N. SMITH	N. WEBB, A. WEBB, J. MARCONE
11:30AM	M. ESLING	J. SNELLINGER, M. ADAMCIK, T. MARION, H. MARINARO	S. PHILLIPS, Z. ADAMCIK, S. BHIKARRY