

JMJ

Dear Parishioners,

As we begin the new liturgical season of Lent and we focus on Christ and His Passion. I thought I would again give us a reminder why we are praying together facing the same way for the Eucharistic Prayer:

1. Why does the priest not face the people for the Eucharistic Prayer?

The priest offers Mass facing the same direction as the people, because he and the people together are offering worship and sacrifice to God. He is not turning his back on the people to exclude them. Rather, as a Christian community, are all facing ad orientem (i.e. toward the east) waiting in joyful expectation for the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ who will return to judge the living and the dead and the world by fire (Rite of Baptism, 1962).

What in the early Church determined the position of the altar was that it faced Eastward. To quote St. Augustine: "When we rise to pray, we turn East, where heaven begins. And we do this not because God is there, as if He had moved away from the other directions on earth..., but rather to help us remember to turn our mind towards a higher order, that is, to God." This quotation shows that the Christians of those early days, after listening to the homily, would rise for the prayer which followed, and turn towards the East. St. Augustine always refers to this turning to the East in prayer at the end of his homilies, using a set formula, *Conversi ad Dominum* ("turn to face the Lord").

Also, because he is offering the Mass in Christ's name and in His Person, in *persona Christi*, to God the Father and is leading his people in adoration and worship. He is facing east, the rising sun, which is symbolic of the 'New Jerusalem' and he is leading his flock as the Good Shepherd does. When he needs to address the congregation he turns to face the people and says, for example, "*Dominus vobiscum*" ("The Lord be with you") or "*Orate fratres*" ("Pray, brethren").

2. Does this mean that the people do not participate in the Rite of Mass?

Catholics should have a sincere, intense, interior participation in the Mass, raising their minds and hearts to God, uniting themselves with the priest offering the Divine Victim at the altar and offering themselves in unison with Him. Following the words and actions in a missal greatly helps one in understanding and appreciating the beauty of Mass. Singing at Mass, making the Sign of the Cross, kneeling and other physical forms of participation are important to our worship, because God gave us body, made in His image and likeness, so that we might worship Him in our bodies. But the ultimate participation is achieved in the spiritual participation of the Mass, which finds its culmination in the worthy reception of Holy Communion.

Vatican II, in its decree on the Sacred Liturgy, envisaged the preservation of Latin in the Mass. We cannot conclude that Latin is a barrier to full, conscious, and active, participation. The documents of Vatican II clearly give evidence to this fact. Nor did the fathers of Vatican II did not consider Mass offered ad orientem (i.e. toward the East) as an obstacle to the full and active participation which they advocated. Even the General Instruction in the 2003 Roman Missal (G.I.R.M.) indicates that the priest is only required to face the people at specific moments in the Mass and not throughout.

May you have a most blessed Lent.

Sincerely yours in Christ,
Father Newcomb

Fr. Newcomb will be having discussions on Symbolon Part II in the Parish Office Building in the Saint Peter and Saint Paul Meeting Room @ 6:30pm the following Mondays:

- 6 March** Session 4: Penance & Anointing of the Sick; **13 March** Session 5: Matrimony & Holy Orders
- 27 March** Session 6: A Catholic Moral Vision ; **3 April** Session 7: A Love that Lasts
- 17 April** Session 8: A Love that Lasts ; **24 April** Session 9: Catholic Social Teaching
- 1 May** Session 10: Catholic Social Teaching

Liturgical Ministers for March 11/12, 2017

MASS	LECTOR	MINISTERS OF HOLY COMMUNION	ALTAR SERVERS
4:00PM	T. WEBB	L. AVELLA, H. ECKES, J. FLYNN	N. WEBB, A. WEBB, J. MARCONE
8:30AM	J. HENDRICK	A. STASILLI, N. STASILLI, J. TAYLOR	J. KLOTZ, S., KLOTZ, D. KLOTZ
11:30AM	H. MARONARO	T. MARION, N. SMITH, J. SNELLINGER	S. BHIKARRY, S. CUELLO, A. ST. LOUIS

Fr. Newcomb will lead a Lenten prayer service at Drew Methodist Church on **Wednesday, March 8th** at noon. Cost for the soup lunch is \$3 which includes beverages and dessert.

Little Lambs is having a Spaghetti and Meatball dinner on **Saturday, March 18th from 4:30pm to 6:30pm** in the Church hall. Adults \$8/ Children (under 12) \$5. Under 3 FREE!

Tea Time is Spring Time

Step back in time & join **Court Madonna's Garden** for an afternoon of tea and conversation.

Date: Saturday, April 1st
Time: 12pm to 2:30pm
Donation: \$10 Ladies \$5 young ladies
 Please RSVP to Barbara 856-2624



FUN RAISER Wine Tasting

Friday, April 28th from 6pm to 9pm in the church hall. Tickets \$20. Contact Cheryl 856-8793 or Barbara 856-4801.

Tickets also available at the parish office.

G.E.M.S. will be selling Palm Crosses for \$10 each. Please see the children after all Masses soon or call the parish office.



Lottery tickets for April are now available at the parish office. Tickets are \$10 each for the month.

All proceeds go towards Church improvements.

**St. Mary's Church
 5th Annual Fish and Chips Dinner
 Friday, April 7th**

Dinner available from 4:30p.m. to 6:45p.m.
 In the Church Hall (Eat-In or Take-Out)

Fish and Chips Dinner Pricing

\$13.00 per adult - \$6.00 per child*

Dinner consists of breaded pieces of fish, french fries, coleslaw and refreshments

(*Child is considered 12 years old and under)

Join us for Stations of the Cross at 7:00 p.m.

Please make checks payable to **St. Mary's Church**.
 Return the bottom portion of this form, with payment to the parish office or in the offering basket at Mass

By April 1st/2nd

**We must confirm a count with Tastefully British by this date.
 Dinners are non-refundable.**

Fish and Chips Dinner Ticket Orders 2017

#of Adult Tickets ___ x \$13.00 = \$ _____

Family Name: _____

of Child Tickets ___ x \$6.00 = \$ _____

Contact Number: _____

Total = \$ _____

of Eat-In Dinners _____

of Take-Out Dinners _____

Pick-up your tickets at the door the night of the dinner.

St. Joseph's in Matamoras is having their annual Lenten Soup To Go Sale. Various meatless soups will be available to be ordered the Monday before pickup. For more information call : Carol Cordova 570-491-9074.

ANNOUNCED MASSES

- Monday, March 6**
9:00am Harrison Hinkley, by Dick and Barbara Drew Lucy and Stephen Pedlock, by Christine Onofry, Beverly Cordisco and family
- Tuesday, March 7 (Perpetua and Felicity, martyrs)**
9:00am Ida Lissner, by Bob and Dianna Witherow
- Wednesday, March 8 (John of God, religious)**
9:00am Eleanor Kowal, by Rayola McLaughlin Tom Earley, by Missy, Kyle, and Todd
- Thursday, March 9 (Frances of Rome, religious)**
9:00am Kevin Cunningham, by Herman and Marie Barth
- Saturday, March 11**
4:00pm The parishioners of St. Mary's Giuseppe Fiorillo, by Rosa Fiorillo
- Sunday, March 12**
8:30am Catherine Smith, by Mary Rimlinger
11:30am Dennis Simmons, by Toni Marion

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE SICK: Joann Wilcox, Nick Moscatiello, Jackie Mundy, Theresa Fuller, Donald Wolff, Walter Szapkowicz, 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, Christina Greeves, Amelia Quinn, Marianne Ripel, Joseph Livingston, Donna Bancala, Teddy Mead, Pat Arnold, Angela Lillo, Pat Muller, Debi Cotugno, Tom Earley, Conner McHugh, Bobby Fett, Sue Arnold, Dennis Perrin, Josephine Fiorillo, Carol Tufano, Jacqueline Leggett, David M. Phillips, Laney Carnahan, Elizabeth Startup Jones, Michael Costescu, Lisa Baisley, Scott Smith, Jim Muller, Charles Hildebrandt, Joe Formisano, Theresa Kavanagh, Jim Bisardi, and Jerome Smith.

Sick List Update
 Please maintain/remove/add
 (Due by March 20th)

Day Light Savings begins March 12. Please remember to Spring forward.

The collection for February 25/26 was \$5,374.50
 Thank you for your continued generosity.