

TWENTY—EIGHTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

PASTOR'S CORNER



Is our Sunday Mass too long or too short? What do you think? *The Archbishop of New York, Cardinal Dolan has this to say:*

In our preparation for the Synod, one question I always posed was, “How can we get people back to Sunday Mass? Why have so many of our folks stopped coming?” I was amazed at the high interest this generated. Apart from the predictable carping from both fringes — the far left claiming that the only way to increase Mass attendance was to drop all liturgical guidelines and go back to the “do-your-own-thing” hootenannies of the '70's, or the alt-right urging turning the altar around and getting the fiddlebacks out of mothballs — the largest majority said that the top reasons people were no longer coming to Sunday Mass were — are you ready for this? — one, because they couldn't understand the priest; two, their parish had been closed; and, three, Mass was too long!



Let's concentrate on the third reason. At first, I was prone to dismiss this. But, after re considering this reason, I concluded that maybe these folks were on to something. It was very clear that these women and men who loved the Eucharist, who would rarely themselves miss Sunday Mass and were the first ones back after the pandemic restrictions were mercifully lifted; who gladly welcomed the genuine liturgical renewal of the council, who were not asking for a “quickie” Sunday Mass, who knew that a reverent, participative, joyful celebration of the Sunday Eucharist demands a chunk of quality time, but who were still exhausted from “marathon Masses” which they contend are driving the folks away. Could they be on to something? A liturgical scholar observed to me recently, “The greatest advance of liturgical renewal after the council was the restoration of the prominence and solemnity of the Easter Vigil. But the greatest negative of these last decades has been that every Sunday Mass is now as long as Holy Saturday!”

The dismal stories the people shared with me reached litany length. Now, they tell me, Mass starts with music rehearsal, then an obligatory “greeting” to those around you. By then, we're five minutes past when Mass was supposed to start. The celebrant will usually give a lengthy introduction; the “Gloria” can exhaust the angelic choir, to say nothing of an unending sung responsorial psalm. The prayers of the faithful can go on forever, with the final petition — for the deceased — added to on the spot as some are dropping dead in front of us. Then we sit and wait awhile for the collection and offertory procession. The “Lamb of God” can reach the length of a baseball game. Often, we add a “reflection” after communion, with subsequent announcements. Don't forget the long list of “thank you's” for all those who had a part in Mass. God forbid we would leave before all five verses of the closing hymn are sung . . .and I have not even mentioned the biggest culprit of all — the mammoth homily from priests and deacons who ignore Pope Francis' admonition to keep homilies at 8 -10 minutes!

Now, although clearly exaggerating for effect, I'm not making this up. All of the above were comments I received. As a celebrant, I was somewhat stung, but forced to wonder if these good people — who, I remind you again, realize that a well-done liturgy takes time — might indeed have a point. Perhaps an hour-and-a-half Mass — not just on solemnities, but every Sunday — has become normal, and they candidly propose that this is one of the factors driving people away. I don't know what to think. Somewhere in between the racing 28-minute Sunday Masses of the past and the 90-minute marathon Masses of today would seem to be the dream. Maybe more silence and less verbosity at Mass is key in this case, for pretty soon, Mass will be very short, because we priests may be the only ones there!

Fr. Slawek

OCTOBER 15, 2023

SACRAMENTAL PREPARATIONS YEAR 2023-2024

**Registration for First Holy Communion and Sacrament is now
CLOSED**

For those who missed the deadline, you may register for next year.

REMINDER:

- Enrollment for the First Holy Communion will be this Sunday, October 15th at 9 a.m. Mass and Sacramental class will follow right after the Mass.
- Enrollment for the Sacrament of Confirmation will be this Sunday, October 15th at 11 a.m. Mass and Sacramental class will follow right after Mass.

ATTENTION: All Participants **MUST** arrive 20 minutes before the start of each Mass. **All Participants must sign the attendance sheet and attend Mass.**

MASS INTENTIONS



Tuesday, October 17

9 a.m. Repose of the soul of Rev. Chris Rupert.

Wednesday, October 18

9 a.m. Repose of the soul of Janina & Ludwik Glowacz.

Thursday, October 19

9 a.m. Intentions of Pearl Noranho req. by Cheryl & Don Jacob.

Friday, October 20

9 a.m. Repose of the soul of Lo Mui req. by Angela Chan.

Saturday, October 21

4:30p.m. Intentions of all Parishioners.

Sunday, October 22

9 a.m. Intentions of Pearl Noranho req. by Cheryl & Don Jacob.

11 a.m. Repose of the soul of Francisco Sr. & Francisca Anchuelo req. by Lourdes Anchuelo.

WHAT IS THE PRE-AUTHORIZED GIVING PLAN?

PreAuthorized Giving ("PAG") is a plan to assist you in supporting your Parish through regular financial offerings.

The operation and maintenance of your parish is made possible through the generous and regular offertory giving of our parishioners. In response to changing lifestyles and demands on your time, the PAG plan will assist you in establishing a systematic giving program.

The PAG plan creates a win / win situation for you and Holy Spirit Church. Enrollment for the PAG plan is a very simple procedure. When you enroll, your offering will be automatically withdrawn from your designated bank account on the 20th day (or next business day) of each month. This amount will electronically be deposited to the Parish's account.

The PAG plan does not cover the special collections; therefore, we encourage you to continue using the envelopes made available at the back of the church.

COFFEE & TEA SOCIAL

Wednesday, October 18, 2023

After the 9 a.m. Mass in the Parish Basement

All parishioners welcome



Children's Liturgy

resumes Today Sunday,
October 15th, 2023
during the 9 am mass.

**Life always
offers you a
second chance.**

**It's called
tomorrow.**

GodNine.com



The Society of Saint Vincent de Paul - Holy Spirit

BUNDLE SUNDAY—OCTOBER 28-29

WE ONLY ACCEPT

All Clothing
(Any Condition)
All Footwear
(Any Condition)
Bedding
(Any Condition)
Draperies/Towels
Toys (New Only)

Please drop off item only
on the weekend of
October 28-29 before Mass
begins.

Thank you