



FROM THE DESK OF FR. MIKE

This weekend, at the Church of St. Mary, we will be offering the opportunity to receive the Blood of Christ. We are planning on offering the Blood of Christ at the weekend Masses, learning and adjusting as necessary in the coming days. As we begin offering the Blood of Christ the guidelines are in the bulletin, and pew cards will be in place and your support is appreciated.



The ministers of the Precious Blood will be stationed in the front of the altar. If at any time you are not feeling well, you are asked to refrain from receiving the Precious Blood from the common cup. We will be able to continue this practice as long as mandated EMHC's are able to attend the Masses and minister to the faithful. Intinction, dipping the host into the Precious Blood will not be practiced. Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion (EMHC's) have been trained to not allow the faithful to dip the Body of Christ into the chalice.

As a reminder, you are to receive and consume the host upon having it offered to you. It is not proper to carry the host with you back to the pew. After you respond AMEN, take one step to the side, place the Eucharist in your mouth, and continue to your pew for the prayer of thanksgiving.

If you want to receive the Precious Blood, the mandated EMHC will offer you the chalice. When offered the Blood of Christ you are to respond AMEN. May our active reception of the Eucharist nourish us so we all can live eucharistic lives of sacrifice and love for our neighbor.

Since we resumed public Mass after COVID I have made numerous appeals to the faithful in the pews, asking from the altar and in my article for more people to come forward to be trained and serve as ushers. The response has been minimal which raises concern and logistical challenges when trying to offer the Mass. Additional ushers would greatly help the reverence and the prayerfulness of our Masses. With minutes to spare before Mass, trying to find an usher to help select people to bring up the gifts, to receive the offering and to welcome parishioners and guests, is an unwelcome intrusion to the celebrant's attempt to pray before and into the celebration of Mass.

Once again, I make an appeal to men and women, young adult men and women, who are able to receive training, make a commitment to arrive at Mass to serve as an usher, or other liturgical ministers, to reach out to me. You can speak to me before or after Mass, or send me an email or one to Leslie Ardell, lardell@churchofstmary.org. Thanks for praying about this opportunity to help prayerfully enhance the public worship at the Church of St. Mary. Mr. Ron Sevcik, who works tirelessly to make sure there are ushers at each mass and his small but mighty team of ushers would be happy to welcome you into the ranks of ushers.

We are offering a Vigil Mass at 7:00 PM on Monday, August 14th for the Feast of the Assumption as well as our Mass at 7:30 AM on Tuesday, August 15th. Join us as we honor the Blessed Mother on this holy day of obligation.

In June, I wrote that I am welcoming a priest friend from Zambia to our parish for summer. Fr. Deogratius "Deo" Kaundula is a priest of the diocese of Lusaka, Zambia. He arrived on August 5th and participated in the wonderful and festive outdoor Gazebo Mass and cookout at the Gazebo in Lake Bluff. Thanks to everyone who had a hand in the community celebration, enjoying the Mass and cookout together. Fr. Deo will be with us, learning about the Archdiocese and parishes in Vicariate 1. Fr. Deo will be returning to his family and parish on September 6th. He has received a very warm welcome by those who have already met him. He looks forward to having the chance to meet you in the coming weeks.

God bless you in living your faith in word and action these summer days.

Fr. Mike Macius