



This month, Lore Nugent, Fr. Radley, and I are working with our returning and new Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion. As part of our prayer together, teaching, and formation about ministry, there are a variety of resources that we use at the Church of St. Mary for continued reflection, formation, and spiritual enrichment.

You have read in my articles about the gift we have in our Archdiocese of the Office of Divine Worship (ODW). The resources - staffing, publications, and guidelines - influence our worship and our liturgies. The “Guide for Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion, Third Edition” is part of *The Liturgical Ministry Series* from Liturgy Training Publications, promoted by ODW.

Using the Third Edition lets us know that the current edition has been updated with enhanced content and features. As part of the *Liturgical Ministry Series* the book is grounded in Church doctrine and liturgical practice and follows a format that provides both the newly formed ministers as well as experienced ministers with basic skills and theological insights in order to perform their ministry well and in a Christlike manner.

The Third edition includes theological and historical reflections on the liturgy and the ministry. It provides practical skill-building and advice for serving in the role. And it offers ways to deepen one’s spirituality and call to discipleship. The chapters include answers to frequently asked questions, recommended resources, a liturgical glossary, and questions for discussion and reflection.

Some bullet points from the first chapter, presented in answer to the question “What is Liturgy?,” state the following:

- ◆ Liturgy gathers us in the presence of God.
- ◆ Liturgy helps form us into a community.
- ◆ Liturgy is both common and cosmic.
- ◆ Christian liturgy is always about the Paschal Mystery.
- ◆ In the liturgy, we meet Christ.
- ◆ Liturgy is the worship of the Church.
- ◆ The liturgy is richly varied.
- ◆ Liturgy is different from devotion.
- ◆ Liturgy both reflects and shares our faith.
- ◆ Liturgy really matters.

I am including these statements for your personal reflection and perhaps faith sharing with a family member or a loved one. If the Holy Spirit is working in you and calling you to assist the priests and deacons in this beautiful and important ministry, please reach out to Lore Nugent at Lnugent@churchofstmary.org or by calling her at (847) 582.2501.

St. Mary’s Summer School of Faith begins this week. Details are found in today’s bulletin.

I am traveling to Our Lady of Mount Carmel, in Carmel, Indiana, this weekend, to share in the wedding of the son of college friends. The groom’s parents just celebrated 33 years of marriage. I will be away from St. Mary’s to share in the joy of this wedding and to take a few days off. I look forward to praying with you next weekend.

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

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Fr. Mike Nugent". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.