



## From the Desk of Fr. Hawk

November 7, 2021

Dear Church,

I want to make you aware of changes you will see during liturgy and explain the why behind the changes. We have removed some furniture from the sanctuary, relocated the ambo, and will start to celebrate Baptisms during Mass.

The placement of the ambo as instructed by The General Instruction of the Roman Missal (*the detailed document governing the celebration of Mass of the Roman Rite*) and the US Bishops' document "Built of Living Stones" states that "The central focus of the area in which the word of God is proclaimed during the liturgy is the *ambo*. The design of the ambo and its prominent placement reflects the dignity and nobility of that saving word and draws the attention of those present to the proclamation of the word." (81)

This current legislation generally includes only a single ambo in the sanctuary. I believe the removal of the second lectern and other furniture in the sanctuary allows for less clutter and draws the attention of the faithful to the area reserved for the proclamation of the word

You will see that the Cantor has been moved so that they can still be seen by the congregation, but the new spot is not quite as prominent as in the past. You may have also noticed that the Responsorial Psalm is now being proclaimed from the ambo where all the readings take place. The Responsorial Psalm, which is part of the Liturgy of the Word, is sung between the readings and helps us to meditate on the word of God. These changes will help "the Christian community encounter the living Lord in the word of God and prepare itself for the "breaking of the bread" and the mission to live the word that is proclaimed". (81)

Starting this weekend, we are going to begin celebrating Baptisms for children at weekend Masses. The Rite for the Baptism of Children strongly recommends that baptisms take place on Sunday, the day of the resurrection, at a communal celebration in the presence of the faithful. It promotes the value of welcoming new members into the Church in a liturgy which includes the active participation of the assembly as well as music, processions, symbols and all the elements of a genuine celebration. The obvious way to meet these recommendations is to incorporate the sacrament of Baptism into the parish Sunday Mass. According to the Rite, this practice is to be encouraged because it enables the entire community to be present and brings out clearly the relationship between Baptism and the Eucharist.

Baptisms during Mass will most frequently happen at our 5:00 PM Mass and our Noon Mass. Baptisms celebrated outside of Mass will only be scheduled on the second Sunday of every month. During our weekend liturgies, it is my sincere hope that you will join me in warmly welcoming these newly Baptized and their families as they celebrate this initiation into the Catholic faith.

I thank you for listening (reading) and hope that you more fully understand the changes that we are making. Please remember to pray for all the faithful departed during the month of November and I hope you have a great week.

Peace,

Fr. Vince



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