

September 3, 2023

Ministry Schedules

Lectors

Sat. 9/2 Kathy Cooney
Sun. 9/3 Marian DeLay
Sat. 9/9 Marian DeLay
Sun. 9/10 Deb Slecta

Eucharistic Ministers

Sat. 9/2 Bob Meierdierks
Sun. 9/3 Pat Trim
Sat. 9/9 Bob Meierdierks
Sun. 9/10 Pat Trim

Ushers

Sat. 9/2 Andy Savarese
Bob Meierdierks
Sun. 9/3 Jim McGann
Alex S.
Sat. 9/9 Andy Savarese
Bob Meierdierks
Sun. 9/10 Jim McGann
Alex S.

Prayer Line

If you would like prayers for any serious health or personal reason, you can call Patti at 259-5290 and she will activate the prayers of at least 20 others.

Confession Schedules

MOAB: Confessions are heard at 4:15pm on Saturday afternoons or by appointment at St. Pius X.

Sunday Collection

St. Pius X Offertory: \$1547.⁰⁰

**Scripture Readings
and
Mass Intentions for the Week**

Mon – 8/28 – Mass 8:30 am
1 Thessalonians: 1-5, 8b-10
Mt 23: 13-22
Tues – 8/29 – Mass 8:30 am
1 Thessalonians: 1-8
Mk 6: 17-29
Wed – 8/30 – Mass 8:30 am
1 Thessalonians 2: 9-12
Mt 23: 27-32
Thurs – 8/31 – Mass 8:30 am
1 Thessalonians 3: 7-13
Mt 24: 42-51
Fri – 9/1 – Mass 8:30 am
1 Thessalonians 4: 1-8
Mt 25: 1-13
Sat – 9/2 – Mass 8:30 am
1 Thessalonians 4: 9-11
Mt 25: 14-30

Praying the Rosary

The Rosary is the most potent prayer for us Catholics. One Hail Mary is enough to drive away the devil. It is also a prayer to obtain peace, which our family, society and the world are badly in need. In this regard, I would like to invite each Catholic to pray the Rosary before daily Mass at 8:10 am in the Church.

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

A one hour Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament is every Thursday after the Mass. Jesus said “Can you not watch one hour with me”. Thursday is the day Jesus instituted the Holy Eucharist. We adore Christ present in the Eucharist. We lift Him all our cares, concerns and problems, for he is there ready to listen to our pleas.

2023 National Collections Schedule

September 10: Calvary Catholic Cemetery (Diocesan)
September 10: Priests’ Retirement (Diocesan Collection)
October 22: Mission Sunday
November 19: Campaign for Human Development
December 3: Catholic Community Services

Volunteers Needed

The parish is in need of teachers for children’s Catechism, first communion and confirmation. Those interested, please see Father Noel.

Eucharistic Minister and Usher Schedule

There are sign-up sheets on the back tables to volunteer for usher and bread minister. Please write down your name and the Mass you typically attend. A schedule will be made available at a future Mass.

The Priesthood

On the anniversary of my ordination to the priesthood, I would like to offer the following explanation on the priesthood. A priest is a man who has received the Sacrament of Holy Orders, which confers on him certain powers of Christ, principally the power to consecrate bread and wine into the Body and Blood of Christ and the power to forgive in the Sacrament of Reconciliation. The Lord Jesus Christ, the sole power of the new covenant, made all members of the church share, by grace, in His unique priesthood. Through the Ministered Priest, who has received the Sacrament of Holy Orders, Christ Himself makes his members an eternal gift to the Father. The Ministerial Priesthood differs not only in degree, but in essence from the Common Priesthood of all the baptized believers in that it insures special powers and correlative duties upon Bishop and Parish. All ordained Priests exercise the supreme degree of their special functions in the same way; by celebrating the Eucharist. The role of priests is a well-established, biblical idea that precedes the advent of the Church. In the Book of Exodus, for instance, every family had its own priest, with the father taking on the role for his household. In this ancient understanding of the priesthood, to be a priest meant primarily to offer sacrifice. Following the idolatry of the golden calf, the priesthood was restricted to the Levites. But did you

know that the Church restored this broader concept of the priesthood? In fact, the church teaches us that all the baptized are priests! But how can we be? We don't all wear clerics or hear confessions.

What does it mean for all of us to be priests?

When we think of the priesthood, most of us think of the ordained or ministerial priesthood. The Second Vatican Council taught that ministerial priests teach and rule the priestly people, acting in the person of Christ. Further, priests make present the Eucharistic sacrifice. That is to say, they administer the sacrament and especially, perform the consecration of the bread and wine at Mass. The common or baptismal priesthood **does not** perform the same function.

What does the common priesthood look like, and how is it distinct from the ministerial priesthood?

Lumen Gentium puts it this way: "Therefore all the disciples of Christ, preserving in prayer, and praising God, should present themselves as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God, everywhere on earth, they must bear witness to Christ and give an answer to those who seek an account of that hope of eternal of eternal life which is in them." (LG 10)

A few lines later, the same document teaches: "But the faithful, in virtue of their royal priesthood, join in the

offering of the Eucharist. They likewise exercise that priesthood by receiving the sacraments, in prayer and thanksgiving, in the witness of holy life, and by self-denial and active charity." (LG 10)

What does this mean practically?

Fundamentally, it means there is a deeper meaning of baptism, which we need to recover and share. While we usually think of baptism as being the entryway into the sacraments, understanding the fact that baptism makes us into a royal priesthood shows the extent at which baptism transforms us and changes us. It's not merely an initiation, it is so much more. It is an elevation into the dignity of a royal priesthood! Baptism thus carries with it lifelong responsibilities.

Being baptismal or common priests according to the *Catechism of the Catholic Church* and the *Lumen Gentium*, is fundamentally about two key concepts:

1. Making a sacrifice of our lives, through prayer and the reception of the sacraments
2. Living as a witness by a holy life and active charity.

If we take this concept of making a sacrifice, and uniting our lives to Christ through the sacraments and a life of prayer, it can reorient our understanding of the whole of Christian life. Seen through the lens of a common priesthood, the sacraments become not mere events to attend, but

opportunities to offer our whole selves, our own lives. Just as it would be a minimalist view to say being a priest means "saying Mass" rather than offering it, so, too, might suffering from a minimalist ecclesiology, if we think our main duty as lay Catholics, or common priests, is to merely be at Mass. Rather as common priests, we are called to unite our own hearts and lives to the offering of the priest. We should see in the offering of bread and wine our own cares and concerns. Whatever is going on in our lives, whatever purification we might need, whatever struggles we might be having, we bring all of this and spiritually unite it not just with the priests offering but with of all the baptized in the Church. And this "Church" extends not just to the people in our pews but to the universal Church. All of our offerings are caught up together as we, the common priests, join with the ministerial priests.

The ordained, to be sure, participate in Mass in a different way, and it is a difference of kind, not only degree. But the laity, part of the royal priesthood, truly need a deeper awareness of the fact, that we too, are called to join in the offering of the Eucharist. This is one of the great truths of the Second Vatican Council, that needs more emphasis. Beyond the offering of our own spiritual sacrifice, the common priesthood means bearing witness to

the truth of the Gospel through the witness of holy life and active charity. I turn to St. Paul VI's insightful comment in this respect: "Modern man listens more willingly to witnesses than to teachers, and if he does listen to teachers, it is because they are witnesses." (*Evangelii Nuntiandi* 41). Evangelization, which the world desperately needs, takes different forms, but a critical first step in spreading the truth of the Gospel is to live it, and let the witness of our lives shine forth to provide light to a world in darkness. We are called, through our baptism, to be for the world what the soul is for the body. The two priesthoods are infinitely connected since both are a response to Christ and they are bound together. The Ministerial Priesthood is serving the priestly people and the priestly people receive the sacraments from the Ministerial Priesthood.