

Fr. Martin's Reflection – 08/08/21 Bulletin

Dear Sisters and Brothers,

I can't believe how quickly the summer is passing, the TV is full of back-to-school commercials and unfortunately, we must pay attention. I know parents of our Religious Education students have been made aware of some changes that will take place this year. I want to take this opportunity to inform the wider family members that attend our 8am and 9:30am Masses of those changes.

Beginning Sunday, September 19, our Religious Education Program will include our students attending Mass first and after receiving Holy Communion they will proceed to their classroom and, led by their teacher, where they will pray the **Prayer of Thanksgiving** for reception of the Holy Eucharist, and at the end of class they will pray the post Communion prayer that would be prayed at the end of Mass. These two Masses will be teaching Masses, so the focus will be on learning the prayers prayed during the Mass and explaining the different parts of the Mass.

For this to happen we will need the cooperation of parishioners who normally sit up front as we will need to reserve a number of seats to accommodate the students and staff.

Another area of concern is parking for regular Mass attendees and parents dropping off their children for class. Rob Pecht from **Bordentown Home for Funerals** has very kindly offered to us the use of his parking lot for Sunday mornings. I would ask people who are able bodied to park at Bordentown Home for Funerals parking lot and walk across the street to the Church. I have one other request (I was going to say, 'final request,' but I know it won't be my last request), we need assistance with parking before the 8am and 9:30am masses for the first couple of months until we become familiar with the new structure of the RE program. If you are available to help with parking, please contact the parish office and leave your name and number – the more volunteers we get the easier it will be for all of us.

Receiving Holy Communion in the Hand or on the Tongue?

I know for a number of people receiving Holy Communion on the tongue is very important. They see it as a mark of respect for the Eucharist and feel uncomfortable receiving it in the hand. I appreciate that, but at the present time many more are concerned about the continued threat of the Delta variant of the Corona virus. I have been approached by Eucharistic Ministers who feel uncomfortable placing the host on the tongue, especially if their finger touches the tongue and then having to give Holy Communion to another parishioner. Parishioners have also expressed such concerns about receiving after someone who has received on the tongue. We must ask ourselves, does it really matter who places the Eucharist on our tongue, the Eucharistic Minister, Deacon or Priest? Is not what really matters the fact that Christ is coming to me in the Eucharist, and the question I should ask is: 'Is my heart ready to receive Christ?'

For the health and comfort of all I have instructed all ministers of the Eucharist to place the host in the hand of the communicant. I shall review this at a later date.

"I am the living bread that came down from heaven; whoever eats this bread will live forever; and the bread that I will give is my flesh for the life of the world." Jn 6:51

Fr. Martin