

St. Joseph Parish

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Dear friends in Christ,

Have you ever asked or been asked: What is the Liturgy? Here is a short answer:

The Liturgy is the celebration of the mystery of Christ and in particular his paschal mystery. Through the exercise of the priestly office of Jesus Christ, the Liturgy manifests in signs and brings about the sanctification of humankind. The public worship which is due to God is offered by the Mystical Body of Christ, that is, by its head and by its members (CCC, n. 218).

In the Liturgy, especially the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass, we commemorate and celebrate the Incarnation, Suffering, Death, and Resurrection of the Lord. It is crucial; therefore, we celebrate according to this theological truth of our faith. For many centuries, the sign to orient the heart and the body during the Liturgy has been the depiction of the Crucified Jesus. This explains why the instruction to the Roman Missal states explicitly that:

There is to be a cross, with the figure of Christ crucified upon it, a cross clearly visible to the assembled people. It is desirable that such a cross should remain near the altar even outside of liturgical celebrations, so as to call to mind for the faithful the saving Passion of the Lord (no. 308).

Considering this liturgical teaching, we will move the Crucifix in the back of the Church to the center of the Sanctuary. The resurrected Jesus will then be transferred to the back of the Church where the crucified Christ used to be. As we come to celebrate and pray, both the clergy and lay faithful, we orient our body and soul toward Christ, the Lord, and together with Him to the Father.

This transference of the Crucifix is part of a systematic effort to beautify and restore the noble simplicity, authenticity, rather than ostentation, of the sacredness of our Church and Liturgy we celebrate at St Joseph Parish. We will keep you informed as we move along.

We thank you for your understanding, and may the Lord bless you all.

Yours in Christ,



Fr. Anthony Huong Le
Pastor

Fr. Mark Ruiz
Parochial Vicar

Liturgy Team