

Notes from the Liturgy Guy

June 23, 2010

Unavailable Dates

Please provide unavailable dates for September / October no later than August 15. School events will no doubt be appearing on some of your schedules, as well as various other fall events, so please be sure to check your calendars before sending your unavailable dates to me.

Altar Servers – Important Items and Reminder

Please note the following:

- 1) **Altar Server Appreciation Party** – The Worship and Spiritual Life Commission is organizing an Altar Server Appreciation Party for the late summer / early fall. The date has not been set yet, but it will be advertised for 3-4 weeks prior to the event in the Sunday bulletin. I will also send out an email blast as a reminder. Food will be provided. More details and a request for reservations will be announced soon, so stay tuned!
- 2) **Problem / Server's Closet** – In an effort to help keep the albs tidy, one of the parishioners who washes the linens placed a clothes hamper in the Server's closet specifically for albs that need to be laundered. However, some Servers have been abusing this by taking off their albs, dirty or not, and stuffing them in this bin. Not only is this poor stewardship of God's creation (more detergent, water, and electricity/gas used), it is rude to the people who are trying to show good stewardship of the church's resources. Therefore, this bin has been moved into the sacristy bathroom. If you have soiled albs (or they are beginning to smell from sweat—it is summer), drop them in the labeled bin and they will be washed. If your alb can be reused, please hang it up properly!
- 3) **On-Line Phone Lists (reminder)** – Due to an ongoing issue with our network file server, the on-line Altar Server phone lists have been removed from the web site indefinitely. We are working on a solution to the problem, but it may take a while. If you need a list, you can find hard copies in the marked plastic bins of Hospitality Closet (first door in the Cry Room).

Training Dates for Liturgical Ministers

At present, the next round of trainings / refresher courses will probably be scheduled in September. However, not all the events for this fall have been scheduled yet, so this plan may change. Please watch the Sunday bulletin for times and dates. I will try to advertise these 2-3 times prior to each event.

Upcoming Holy Days / Special Masses - Assumption

Based on this year's calendar, the Solemnity of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary will fall on a Sunday. Therefore, we will *not* offer separate Holy Day Masses. The 5:30 PM Saturday Mass will be considered part of this Solemnity. Lectors should refer to the proper Lectionary readings for this Feast Day.

Liturgical Notes

A few issues have arisen or are recurring, so please remember the following items:

- 1) **Eucharistic Ministers** – (a) *Please do not forget to offer Holy Communion to the music ministers!* If you move over to help another section, please remember to check the choir section again before you return to the altar/credence tables. (b) *Please remember to use the “If Needed” section when you are not scheduled but you are available to help.* I have continued to receive complaints by ministers who are not late to Mass but whose slots are being taken by other people. Even at Masses where we almost always need extra people, please do not sign in the top section if you're not scheduled that weekend. (c) *When obtaining hand clenser, please try to be as innocuous as possible.* Above all things, at this point in the Mass, we should avoid distracting people from the Eucharist. Minimize the noise (as the rounded apse and mics will project the sound) and the hand motion—we don't need to sound and look like a pack of doctors scrubbing in for surgery. (d) *Wait for an “Amen” after saying, “The Body/Blood of Christ.”* Not only is this “Amen” an important affirmation of our belief in the Real Presence, it's a key way of determining whether or not the person should be receiving Holy Communion. Quietly and gently prompt the person if they wait too long. If they look really confused, quietly ask them (or a nearby parent) if they have received First Communion.

Paul Fell, Director of Music / Liturgy