

A Note from Fr. Keith, Our Pastor

Thank you for the prayers and send off last weekend! This Sunday, I will be flown to the Expeditionary Combat Readiness Center at Naval Station Norfolk in Virginia to complete deployment processing certification and receive uniform issue. After ECRC, I will report to Fort Bliss, TX for a few weeks of combat training facilitated by the Army. Beginning on December 1st, I will have days available for Mass intentions. Please contact the Ministry Center if you would like me to offer a private Mass for your intentions. The normal policies of the Diocese of Joliet regulating Mass offerings will still apply even though I will be in Qatar at that time. This will be another opportunity for us to remain in spiritual communion during my deployment. With the idea of Mass intentions in mind, I want to share my summary of the document *The Mystery of the Eucharist in the Life of the Church* which was developed by the Committee on Doctrine of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops. It reflects on two aspects of the Eucharist: gift and response.

The Bishops describe the Gift of the Eucharist in three parts. First, the Sacrifice of Christ emphasizes the salvific and redeeming effect of the Blessed Sacrament which frees us from sin and death. Second, the Real Presence of Christ reaffirms our belief in the central mystery of faith that the elements of bread and wine are miraculously transformed into the Body and Blood of Christ. The Church names this miracle as transubstantiation. Third, the Communion with Christ and the Church focuses on the effects of the reception of Holy Communion uniting us with Christ and, through him, with each other.

The Bishops describe the Response of the Eucharist in four parts. First, our Thanksgiving and Worship is a grateful receptivity inspiring reverent worship. Our belief in the True Presence inspires how we pray and worship at Mass. Second, the Eucharist leads to a Transformation in Christ that conforms our moral choices to God's. Our belief in the Eucharistic Presence and our belonging in Eucharistic Communion purifies and sanctifies our personal and moral behaviors. Third, the Eucharist leads to Conversion whereby we receive Holy Communion in a state of grace, that is, free from mortal sin without committing sacrilege. Fourth, the Eucharist is Food for the Journey nourishing our baptismal faith in this life to prepare us for the final journey from death to eternal life.

Hopefully, this reflection on *The Mystery of the Eucharist in the Life of the Church* inspires all of us to a continued coherence with the mission and vision of the Catholic Church in the United States of America. We are committed to fully embracing and implementing this effort of the Bishops on a local level here at Saint James the Apostle Parish. Our local revival incarnates the words of the Psalmist, "How can I repay the Lord for all the good He has done for me? I will raise the cup of salvation and call on the name of the Lord."

"Pardon Our Dust"

Daily Masses to Be Held in St. James Hall October 24th - November 4th

As we begin a project in the sanctuary on Monday, October 24th, please note we will convene for Daily Masses in St. James Hall. The exterior doors to the church and the church narthex will remain open and congregants may access Mass in the Hall through the narthex. Weekend Masses will remain in the church. We anticipate completion on Friday, November 4th. To read more about this project, please see the article on page 7 of this bulletin entitled, *Preserving Our Father's House Update*. Thank you for your patience.