



St. Mary Catholic

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November 11, 2024

Dear Andrea Kakuk,

The divine liturgy in the Eastern Catholic Church usually begins at sunset but can begin any time after 3:00 pm civil time. Divine liturgy may be celebrated on any day as such permitted by the liturgical books of the respective autonomous Church (CCEO c. 704).

The celebration of divine liturgy must proceed in manner as prescribed in the liturgical books of that autonomous Church. (see Pospishil, Victor J. *Eastern Catholic Church Law: According to the Code of Canons of the Eastern Churches*, Saint Maron Publications, Brooklyn, New York, 1993).

The faithful have the right to receive assistance from the spiritual goods of the Church, especially the word of God and the sacraments (CCEO c.16) and it is a special obligation to make the sacraments to the faithful (CCEO c. 289 §§ 1-2). The sacraments and especially the divine liturgy, cannot be refused to the properly requested and adequately disposed of (CCEO c. 381§ 2).

Two maxims are important to keep in mind: “the salvation of souls is the supreme law of the Church” and it is axiomatic that one cannot assume what one cannot fulfill.

The time for divine liturgy is chosen according to the law, the legitimate needs of the people and the logistics which need to be employed to make the sacrament available to the faithful.

Blessings,

Father Agustin Guzman, C.O.

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