

From the Desk of the Pastor

There are several exciting developments taking place here at Notre Dame Parish that I would like to share with you.

Our efforts to train new altar servers continue to bear fruit. Forty young parishioners are presently being trained to serve at both school and Sunday Masses. Each of these new servers has signed a covenant with the parish, pledging their willingness and commitment to serve faithfully. This initiative offers a wonderful opportunity to help our young people live more fully the faith they have received, and I hope that their active participation at the altar will also rekindle the faith of their parents. As many of us know, the presence of children often inspires parents to embrace their own faith with renewed devotion. Please remember these new servers and their families in your prayers as we begin this important ministry together.

In addition to training new servers, five of our teenaged parishioners have volunteered to serve as Masters of Ceremony. Their role is to assist at Mass and provide guidance to the younger servers. I believe their leadership will bring an added sense of reverence and beauty to our liturgies as they work together to ensure that our celebrations are prayerful and well-ordered. All of these efforts are undertaken for the glory of God and the deepening of our shared faith. I wish to extend my sincere gratitude to all who have generously offered their time and talents in service to these ministries.

At the same time, I am encouraging a renewal of participation in our other liturgical ministries. The parish is currently in need of additional Extraordinary Ministers of the Eucharist and Lectors. To express our gratitude and to foster renewed engagement, we will host a "Thank You Dinner" on November 14th at the school. I invite all who are currently serving, as well as those who may feel called to participate, to join us for this occasion. Training sessions will follow on November 20th for Extraordinary Ministers of the Eucharist and on November 21st for Lectors. Those interested in serving are kindly asked to contact the parish office.

I am also pleased to announce that we are preparing to restore the distribution of the Precious Blood of Christ at Mass. Although this practice has not been observed at Notre Dame Parish for several years, I hope to reintroduce it for those who wish to receive under both species. Provided we have a sufficient number of trained Eucharistic Ministers, distribution of both the Host and the Cup will resume on November 29–30, the First Sunday of Advent.

While it is not necessary to receive from the cup—since the fullness of Christ's Body, Blood, Soul, and Divinity is present in either species—the sign of communion is deepened when both are received. Those who are uncomfortable receiving from a shared cup are welcome to refrain. For those who do receive, please remember that what appears as wine is, in truth, no longer wine, but the Precious Blood of Our Lord Jesus Christ, poured out for us on the Cross. It is my firm belief that one cannot become ill from receiving the Blood of Christ; nonetheless, anyone who is unwell should refrain from receiving from the cup out of charity and consideration for others.

As we move forward in faith, we will continue to work together in these and all parish ministries to renew our community, deepen our worship, and strengthen the faith we share. May our efforts always draw us closer to Christ and bear lasting fruit for the life of the Church.

In Christ,



Very Rev. David Kime, V.F.