

# *St. Julie Billiard Catholic Church*

## **WE are Called...**



Each of us is called to strengthen and share our faith by our prayers and actions. Our actions include our continuing education, understanding our roles, and active participation at Mass. Over the last months our lay ministers have engaged in a series of 'Question and Answers' regarding the Mass, our roles, and opportunities to enhance the experience within our parish. Within this packet we will review topics that have importance to each and every one of us as a parish family. Some may be new information and some may just be that helpful reminder that we all need from time to time. This information was provided in the parish bulletins the first three weeks of May 2015.

We ask you to take a few moments to review the information below. Share with your children to help them expand their participation at Mass. Allow it to renew your commitment to full participation in the Mass.

*May we all find the following information helpful in our continuing journey of being called to be a disciple... and to become a Saint.*

*Fr. George*

**Let's start with a few adjustments we have already implemented. Did you notice?**

**Ablution bowl:** A new shelf is next to our tabernacle. On it is an ablution bowl with a purificator. The Extraordinary Minister who distributed the Body of Christ will purify their fingers after returning the Blessed Sacrament to the tabernacle. This is done to ensure that any small particles of the consecrated host are captured.

**Announcements:** The announcement of the offertory family was moved to be within the Good News, for this is good news to share and the revised placement does not draw attention away from the propers of the Mass. Also, we have stopped announcing the presider and deacon at the Mass. We all know Fr. George, Deacon John, and Deacon Ken. Don't worry, when we have a visitor, we will be certain to announce our celebrant.



**Processional:** Beginning in March, we adjusted the processional to only include the servers, deacon, and celebrant. This adjustment was done after consulting the diocese and talking with various ministers at St. Julie's. Several important factors used in making this decision included:

- ✦ There is no clear directive 'for' or 'against' lay ministers to be a part of a processional or recessional noted in any approved USCCB or diocese directives.
- ✦ When a parish includes lay ministers in its procession/recession, it should be consistent. If you have ministers process, it should be all participating ministers.
- ✦ Lectors and Extraordinary Ministers of the Eucharist are called from the congregation to serve their ministry. They sit throughout the congregation and come forward to assist at the time of their ministry.

Due to these, and known preferences of many ministers, we have altered our approach. Ministers are required to check in prior to Mass to ensure we have proper minister coverage.

## Reminders for us all:

**When do I Genuflect (and where)?** When we arrive for Mass, we should all acknowledge the presence of Our Lord by a proper genuflection as we enter our row. This can be in the form of:

- ✚ going down on bended knee. When genuflecting by kneeling, we should kneel on our right knee.
- ✚ pause and profound bow (or)
- ✚ pause and make the Sign of the Cross

When the Blessed Sacrament is in the tabernacle, our direction and focus should be there. If the Blessed Sacrament is not in the tabernacle (signified by no lit candle), then we focus our reverence on the altar.

You may have noticed that the Eucharistic Ministers also acknowledge the presence of the Blessed Sacrament as they approach for their ministry. If a Eucharistic Minister passes in front of the Altar, they are asked to genuflect (pause and bow) before they proceed to prepare for their role in the distribution of communion.



**Communion to the Homebound:** There have been several occasions where a parishioner presents a pyx when they are receiving communion and asks for an additional host to take to someone. If you have a family member, neighbor, or close friend who is not able to attend Mass and has asked you to bring Communion to them, we ask that you speak to Fr. George prior to Mass, if at all possible.

Our Eucharistic Ministers have been directed to not provide additional hosts in the communion procession. They will ask you to see Fr. George after Mass to receive consecrated hosts. Hosts should only be removed from the tabernacle under express direction of Father or Deacon. We ask for your understanding with this directive. There are several key reasons for this request:

- ✚ There are guidelines for the vessel that a host is placed into as well as directions for the distribution.
- ✚ Father wants to be able to offer prayerful support for those not able to attend and to have the opportunity to extend ministry to them.
  - Do they need/wish for a home visit?
  - Do they wish to receive the other sacraments that the Church offers?
  - Is there additional support that our parish family can provide?
- ✚ When you leave Mass with the Blessed Sacrament, you must go directly to the person to distribute.
- ✚ St. Julie's does have a homebound ministry where Eucharistic Ministers are able to assist and visit our brothers and sisters who are not able to attend Mass at Church.

**Blessing our Children:** St. Julie's has a tradition of presenting our young children who are not receiving communion to receive a blessing from the priest, deacon, or lay minister. This is a beautiful opportunity as we are all able to extend a prayer of blessing for our children and each other. The key word is 'presenting'. If little 'Johnny' or 'Suzie' is hiding behind mom or running around, they are not being presented.

We ask that if you wish for your child to receive a blessing, help them prepare for this by having them walk in front of you and cross their arms across their chest as they approach the minister. Fr. George and our deacons will impart a blessing making the Sign of the Cross. Lay ministers are asked to extend their hand over the child with the following or similar:

- ✚ May The Lords blessings be upon you this day
- ✚ May The Lord bless and protect you



Our children should acknowledge the blessing by making the Sign of the Cross and even a verbal and reverent 'Amen'.

**Parents & Families... What a great opportunity to reinforce the importance of the Sign of the Cross in our lives!!**



**Reception of Communion:** With many of our young children receiving Holy Communion for the first time, it's a great opportunity for all of us to be reminded of the following:

The Body and Blood of Christ are equal. 'Communion' is not exclusive to the 'host' and the Chalice is not 'wine'. There are two forms of communion and each is equal. When we decide to receive only one form, generally we choose to receive the Body of Christ. As a reminder, the preference is the reception of the Body of Christ, unless there are reasons preventing the reception of the Body (i.e.: medical condition).

Our Deacons have an important role in the distribution of Communion. They are, as noted in the *General Instructions of the Roman Missal (GIRM)*, the Minister of the Chalice. At St. Julie Billiart, we distribute Communion in both species whenever possible. It is our Deacon's role to be the Minister of the Chalice.

As we approach for reception, we are all encouraged to spend those moments preparing ourselves. Nearing the front of the line, our pause and 'bow' is meant to signify that we are ready to receive. As we approach the minister, they will slightly elevate the host or chalice and offer "The Body of Christ" or "The Blood of Christ". Our response after is a clear and audible "Amen". When receiving the Body of Christ in the hand, we ask that you open your hands to receive, allowing the minister to place the host on the palm of your hand. With your other hand, then pick up the host and consume immediately. Please do not try to 'pluck' or 'grab' the host from the minister. Following these steps allows for the least chance of the host to be dropped.



All are encouraged to process forward for the reception of communion but understand that there are some who physically are not able. St. Julie's hospitality ministers do a wonderful job in directing our ministers to those who are not able to process. If you are with someone who needs assistance, simply let our hospitality ministers know of the need. Due to the risk of 'spillage', when ministers 'travel' throughout the church to distribute communion, they will distribute the Body of Christ only.

**WE are Called - Time to Get Involved:** The greatest asset of any parish is the people. Our mission statement clearly reflects that we are called to celebrate the Eucharist and minister to our brothers and sisters through prayer, participation, and action.

We would love to have you become involved in ministry.

- ✦ Have you ever thought to become a Lector or Eucharistic Minister?
- ✦ Do you prefer being 'behind the scenes' and wonder if helping as a sacristan is something that would interest you?
- ✦ Is your talent in decorating, organizing, ironing, or do you have a green thumb and would enjoy ensuring our plants and environment are maintained?
- ✦ Does your child (grades 5-10) have an interest in becoming a server at Mass?
- ✦ Do you like to help others or love music? Perfect!! We have a place for you as a Minister of Hospitality and within our Family and Adult Choirs.



**If you answered 'yes' to any of these questions... or even if you answered with a 'yeah' or 'maybe...', give the rectory a call during the week or speak to Fr. George after Mass. Formation sessions are quickly coming up and we would love to have you involved.**