

Pastor's Notes

August 18, 2024

I want to announce a 4-part series that Father Ben and I have planned for our parishes. We thought it would be good, before the fall programming kicks-in, to have an opportunity to present on the Church's liturgy.

On one hand, our experience of the liturgy is so commonplace, because for most of us, it's our most frequent/regular experience of the faith. But on the other hand, it's good to revisit it, to take perhaps a deeper look. In addition to presenting on something we find meaningful, Fr. Ben and I also hope it will give a chance for us all to know each other a bit more.

There are two schedule options for each of the four parts. For each part, you can attend either the Wednesday morning session at St. Thomas (10:00am) or the evening session at St. Philomena (6:30pm). Please join us! The sessions will be 90 minutes in length, and the dates are as follows:

PART I - Wed, Sept 11 (10:00am at St. Thomas) or Thu, Sept 12 (6:30pm at St. Philomena)
PART II - Wed, Sept 18 (10:00am at St. Thomas) or Thu, Sept 19 (6:30pm at St. Philomena)
PART III - Wed, Sept 25 (10:00am at St. Thomas) or Thu, Sept 26 (6:30pm at St. Philomena)
PART IV - Wed, Oct 2 (10:00am at St. Thomas) or Thu, Oct 3 (6:30pm at St. Philomena)

On a different note, I wanted to say a word or two about the two deacons of our parish family. At St. Philomena we are blessed to have Deacon Jerry Graddon, who in addition to being present at liturgies, serves St. Philomena parish in his oversight of our Homebound Ministry. Deacon Jerry does much more for the parish, though there's not enough space here to list it all!

At St. Thomas we are equally blessed to have Deacon Abel Magaña. Deacon Abel is also present at liturgies, but additionally, serves St. Thomas parish in his oversight of the robust Hispanic Ministry. Deacon Abel will also work with Isabel (St. Philomena's Pastoral Assistant for Hispanic Ministry), providing classes for our Spanish-speaking faithful. More to come on that.

With this in mind, as you know, Father Ben and I are present at both parishes. Likewise, starting this weekend (Aug 17/18), so it will be with our deacons. We've made a schedule that has Deacon Jerry preaching at both parishes' English Masses each month. Deacon Abel will preach twice monthly at both parishes' Spanish Masses.

I'm grateful that an expanded body of our faithful will be able to benefit from their presence and preaching, and I'm grateful for their willingness to share their gifts in this way.

Father Todd Strange