

Pastoral Priority I

CATHOLIC SPIRITUALITY & THE SUNDAY EUCHARIST

1. Respecting various cultural expressions, our parish promotes approved forms of traditional piety and devotions as an authentic and invaluable means of fostering and enriching our faith; they are intended to lead to a sincere conversion to Christ, a deep sense of membership in the Church and the practical exercise of charity.
2. Our parish encourages everyone to keep holy the Lord's Day, above all by sharing in the Sunday celebration of the Eucharist, but also by observing Sunday as a day of *joy* in the Lord because it is the day of his victory over sin and death; a day of *rest* in the Lord because the day belongs to him; and a day of *solidarity* in the Lord because it is the day for special outreach to his "brethren" in helping whom we serve him.
3. We foster weekly participation in the Sunday celebration of the Eucharist because we see it as our indispensable opportunity for ongoing encounter with Jesus toward ever deeper conversion and communion with him, the basis for our sharing in his mission.
4. In both the assembly and in all liturgical ministries open to the laity, our Sunday Eucharist welcomes the diversity of God's people, including various cultures, age groups and persons with disabilities, and we extend our celebration to ministry with our sick and homebound members.
5. Our parish invites all members to "full, conscious and active participation" in the Eucharist and promotes at one and the same time a spirit of hospitality and belonging, and an atmosphere of reverence and prayer.
6. Our liturgical ministers, including lectors, altar servers, extraordinary ministers of communion, cantors and musicians, ushers and greeters, are given proper formation and supervision in order to be prayerful themselves and to foster worship, avoiding anything akin to secular performance and entertainment with consequent signs of approval and recognition.
7. In our parish, the Word of God is proclaimed in a manner which nurtures faith, and homilies are given which are relevant to our lives, dispose us to worship God in spirit and truth, and prepare us both to share Jesus with the whole world and to affect our environment for Christ.
8. Music for our celebrations of the Eucharist is liturgically appropriate, reverently performed and engaging of the assembly according to liturgical norms.
9. Within our parish pastoral council, we have an active liturgy and spirituality committee or team which plans, oversees and evaluates our liturgies and devotions.
10. The devotional and sacramental life of our parish leads to and flows from the Sunday Eucharist from which we are sent "to glorify the Lord by our lives."