

SAID ED February 12, 2017

A Walk Through the Mass

During one of our recent Confirmation Prep classes, I asked the group of 9th graders if they had ever been bored when they attended Mass. It was kind of quiet in that room for a few seconds until one of the boys timidly raised his hand. He was the icebreaker. Twelve other hands appeared after his brave admission, and they shared their feelings about “having” to go to Mass. Then it was my turn to admit the same things. Yes, there have been times when I have been bored....or should I say distracted...during Mass. Times when my mind wandered to the produce aisle at Wegman’s or to the errand I was going to run at Target after Mass. If I make myself think about those times, I most often realize that my distraction is caused by my lack of active participation in what’s happening on the altar. I can’t be really involved in the Liturgy of the Eucharist while I am caught up in the Liturgy of Something Else.

The honest responses from those teens stuck in my mind for days....I understood what they were saying, and it troubled me. I knew that their thoughts and feelings about going to Mass were shared by many of their peers.

I shared my thoughts with Fr. Ed, and together we came to the conclusion that in order for our young people to become involved in the Celebration of the Eucharist (the Mass), they needed to understand what happens during that celebration. I think that goes for many of us grown-ups, too.

So—on Monday, February 13th from 7:15-8:30 p.m., we are offering a special presentation on the Mass for our Confirmation Prep Level 1 & 2 students. We are also inviting parents and all parishioners to join us as Fr. Ed takes us on “A Walk through the Mass”. He will help us to better understand why we do what we do when we do it. He will be assisted by Bethany Lyle, our Coordinator of Religious Education, Janie Marini, our Music Director, and Deacon Ron, who will show us how the various liturgical ministers work together to help make the Mass a uniting, prayerful, spiritual experience for us.

For Catholics, the Mass is the central way we come together as a community of believers to worship, to pray, to give thanks to our loving God....and to be fed by God’s Word and His presence in Holy Communion and in each other. We are hoping that this presentation will help us to understand that through our active participation in the liturgy, we can come to more fully enjoy the many blessings and graces that our generous God offers us in the Celebration of the Mass.

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Director of Religious Education
