

ST. JOSEPH PARISH AND SCHOOL – NOVEMBER 26, 2017

Dear Parishioners and Families,

The first Gospel composed is attributed to St. Mark and is dated in the 60's of the first century. The first words ascribed to Jesus in this Gospel present a constant theme of the Lord's preaching: "The Kingdom of God is near. Advance your thinking and believe this good news."

The message of Jesus destroys the notion that our life is consigned only to this earth. Our ultimate future and our ultimate citizenship is in the Kingdom of God. One must earn the Kingdom of God by following the pathway that Jesus blazed in his life while on this earth.

The Kingdom of God, however, will have a true King and one who is the wisdom of God. Today we celebrate Christ the King. In the Kingdom of God there is one ruler who is all wisdom. Earthly leadership is often spotty. In God's Kingdom there is no need for a judiciary, a legislature, or an executive court of advisors. Politics will be no more. Rejoice!

Today we celebrate Christ the King, and the Kingdom of God where we will possess an ultimate citizenship. We only need to follow God's plan and exit this world in God's favor.

Reception of Holy Communion: The Body and Blood of Jesus

The Council of Trent teaches that the true body and the true blood of Jesus exist under the species of bread and wine. His body exists under the species of bread and his blood under the species of wine. One receives the whole Lord when one receives only the bread or only the wine.

The practice of receiving the Eucharist has varied over the history of the Church. In 1963, the Fathers of the Second Vatican Council authorized the extension to the Roman Church for receiving Communion under both body and blood. The Eastern Churches have always given Communion under both kinds by **Intinction**. The Roman Church allows Intinction and also allowed people to drink from the Cup.

What is Intinction? The priest, the deacon, or the Eucharistic minister dip the bread (host) into the Precious Blood (Intinction) and then present the Body and Blood of Christ to the communicant.

Several weeks ago I discontinued the use of the Cup. I did this on the advice of medical doctors, the cautions of the Center for Disease Control, and the health concerns of many people. A few days ago Dr. Chris Dussel, a parishioner and an emergency room doctor, informed me that the flu season has already begun and he has seen many patients with flu. I discontinued the Cup because of these health concerns and the fact that it is not the practice in our country for everyone drinking from one vessel.

In fulfillment of the Latin Churches desire that people can receive under both the Body and Blood of Christ, I am making provisions so that all our parish may receive the Body and Blood of Christ by **Intinction**. The Church does not allow the individual to do the intinction but requires the priest, the deacon, or the Eucharistic ministers to intinct the Body into the Blood and then present Jesus to the communicant.

We will begin this practice on the First Sunday of Advent. The religious store Henningers has given to us three **Intinction Cups** used by the Maronite Church. These cups will allow the minister to dip the Sacred Body into the Blood and present it to the communicant. I will give you further instruction forthwith.

Fr. Tom Acker, S.J.
November 26, 2017