

# A Mission Church

## COMMUNION MEDITATION

There are options concerning such a meditation — silence, a hymn, an anthem by choir, or simple music. Whatever is chosen, it should be used in prayer of thanksgiving and in focusing on how the life received in the Eucharist will change my personal life and the lives of those to whom I may feel sent to by God, in order to announce the Good News of Jesus Christ.

## COMMUNION PRAYER

This final prayer brings to conclusion the Liturgy of the Eucharist. It is a prayer asking that the grace of the sacrament be ours to live in our lives. May we become more like Christ in our words and actions.

The only remaining parts of the liturgy are the announcements (*Please, Father, keep them short*), the blessing, and the dismissal.

## THE BLESSING

It can be given in a simple form, or in a three-fold form. This is usually the loudest “Amen” at mass as the mentality may be more of a “Thank You!”

But we again bless ourselves — we who are now filled with the reality of Christ just received. We celebrate that the wholeness of who we are has been restored and/or strengthened to know the depth of God in our lives.

This is God’s way of saying, “I have more to show you. Don’t forget me. Come back.”

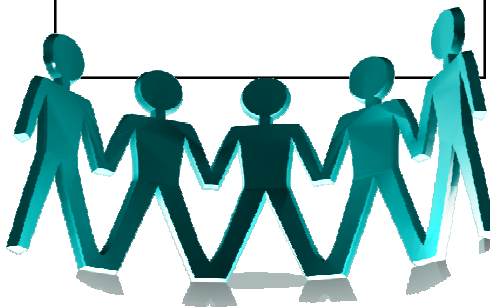
## THE DISMISSAL AND FINAL HYMN

Now the mass is ended — not before. We are given a charge to be Christ in the world,

servants for one another. Go tell Aunt Josie and your brother Nick all about what you’ve experienced in God’s love. Show your neighbor what it’s like to know God’s dwelling is within you.

The mass is ended. Go in peace.  
Now leave! Rejoice! And be glad!

## THE MASS *Concluding Rites*



**Thanks be to God** — not that it is over, but because your life has been transfigured.

## THE WORK OF THE CHURCH

We began this study of the Mass with an understanding that the

Mass is the work of the Church — everyone being involved. As members of the Body of Christ, we strengthen and support, or weaken and diminish the other members. This reality is shown in 1) whether we choose to be a participant or a spectator; 2) whether we choose to grasp the full meaning of the liturgy as an expression of the faithful community rather than an individual, private time; and 3) whether we choose to allow God’s work to flow through us or become the roadblock that inhibits the flow of grace.

In every case, we are given the choice and the opportunity to make a difference in our oneness with Christ. The difference is how we determine if the humanity shared by Christ will be changed into the divine life given us through Christ. Ultimately, it is our choice to seek the joy and peace of salvation that can be offered only through the perfect love of God.

**GOD FIRST — Year 4, Number 13 — November 29, 2009**

**Find weekly inserts at: [www.stjohnthebaptistparish.net](http://www.stjohnthebaptistparish.net) — or at the parish office**

## Permanent Deacon Candidates in Training

### *Their Involvement in Liturgies*

As most know, we have two men from St. John's preparing to be ordained as permanent deacons if it be God's will. Joe Vannucci is in his third year of preparation while Tim Noca is in his first year as a candidate. Most recently, Joe was installed in the Ministry of Acolyte. This is one of the ministries given leading to ordination. With it comes added expectations, which you will see in the months to come.

Both Joe and Tim will be seen in the sanctuary serving more frequently, especially during the holidays, sometimes as Master of Ceremonies directing other ministers, sometimes preparing the altar, sometimes incensing the priest and the people.

As an Acolyte, Joe will be a bit more visible on a regular basis. When scheduled as a Minister of the Eucharist — during the holidays and otherwise, Joe is expected to be vested, that is, wearing the alb. And he is expected to assist at the altar.

He is also now permitted to purify the sacred vessels — cups, which he will do when serving. The priest now does this following communion.

Both Joe and Tim will be providing reflections (mini homilies) at Vespers during Advent, Lent, and at other times and liturgies when appropriate during the year. This is to assist them as a training tool for when ordained and called upon to provide the homily during Mass.

They will also be called upon at times to lead a variety of liturgies, particularly the prayers of committal at the cemetery following a funeral liturgy, or when a prayer service at a funeral home is appropriate in place of a Mass. If it would be necessary, Joe would be the first called upon to lead a Communion Service when a priest could not be present.

It's a time of excitement and anxiety for them. We're excited for both Joe and Tim, and continue to keep them in our prayers.

— Fr. Tom



### **NATIVITY PREPARATION BEGINS NOW**

It may seem strange, but we need to begin work on preparing our outside Nativity set for Christmas. We did a temporary fix on the statues last year, but need a permanent repair that will last for many years.

This includes an important sanding and painting of statues that are over 30 years old. And we want to preserve this set since a replacement would cost approximately \$20,000. *(That's how good a set we have.)*

SO, we need people to sand statues, give them a primer coat of paint, and then apply a finish coat of paint. A few statues need repaired.

IF you're available days or evenings, and willing to share some time and muscle, we're beginning Monday evening at 6:30PM.

BUT, work can be done day or evening, according to your schedule. Call to make sure someone is present who can point you in the right direction.

Thanks for your help!