



## **The Chaplain's Pastoral Guidance – 1**

### Liturgical Guidelines for Sunday Services

9 October 2024

Dear Clergy with PTO, Church Council Members, Choir, Sacristans, Ministrants, Liturgy Committee, and All Concerned with the Sunday Service,

Last Sunday, October 6, 2024, we began to implement some minor changes to the way we conduct our Sunday service, marking a refinement of the practices established a year ago. Below is a summary of these adjustments to ensure a smoother and more meaningful liturgical celebration.

#### Preparations:

In addition to the usual preparations, please observe the following:

1. The bread, wine, water, corporal, and purificator should be prepared and placed on the credence table—not yet on the altar table.
2. A chasuble, according to the liturgical color of the season, should be hung near the vestibule at the main entrance of the church.

#### Entrance:

At the appointed time, the choir will sing the first hymn. The celebrant, vested in a chasuble, along with any assisting priests and ministers (readers, sacristans, cross and Gospel book bearers, etc.) will process from the main entrance of the church. It is important that the celebrant and other ministers are present 15 minutes before the start of the service to greet and welcome the congregation as they arrive.

Upon reaching the chancel, the ministers bow their heads in reverence. The cross and Gospel book bearers place these sacred items in their designated spots before proceeding to the front pews on the right side, facing the altar. The readers then take their seats. The celebrant(s) may reverently kiss the altar before moving to the front of the chancel, standing at the level of the congregation and facing them to offer the opening greeting. This arrangement continues until the singing of the Gloria or Kyrie, after which the celebrant proceeds to the pulpit for the Collect.

If there are additional clergy present, they will read the Great Commandments and the Invitation to the Penitential Order, while the celebrant performs the Absolution and leads the congregation in the singing of the Gloria.

#### Readings:

After the Collect (Prayer of the Day), the celebrant(s) proceed to their seats on the left side, facing the altar. Except for the preacher, the ministers remain seated during the readings and the homily, reflecting together with the congregation.

The Creed:

The celebrant will proceed to the center of the chancel, facing the congregation at their level, and lead them in the affirmation of faith. The celebrant will then slowly turn to face the altar.

Liturgy of the Eucharist:

After the greeting of peace, the celebrant will invite the congregation to present their offerings. While the people sing and offer their gifts, the celebrant prepares the altar by placing the corporal and receiving the bread and wine handed by the other ministers. During the offertory music, the celebrant will say one of the prayers for the preparation of the table. Afterward, the celebrant will wash their hands with the assistance of the ministers, who will then also wash their hands in preparation for assisting with the Communion.

Eucharistic Prayers:

If there are concelebrants, they will take turns reciting portions of the Eucharistic Prayer. The main celebrant will lead the Anamnesis and Consecratory Prayers up to the elevation of the sacraments, with the assistance of the concelebrants.

Communion:

Communion will proceed as usual, with the addition of the choir members receiving Communion around the altar. They will stand in the aisle facing the chancel and will be served first, allowing them to easily exit and begin the Communion hymn.

Dismissal:

An assisting priest will give the dismissal: "Let us go now in peace to love and serve the Lord." During the recessional, only the cross will be carried out, while the Gospel book remains in its place.

We hope these minor adjustments will enrich our worship experience. Thank you for your continued dedication and service to our church community. Should you have any questions or need further clarification, please feel free to reach out.

With gratitude and blessings,



†Antonio Ablon

The Chaplain