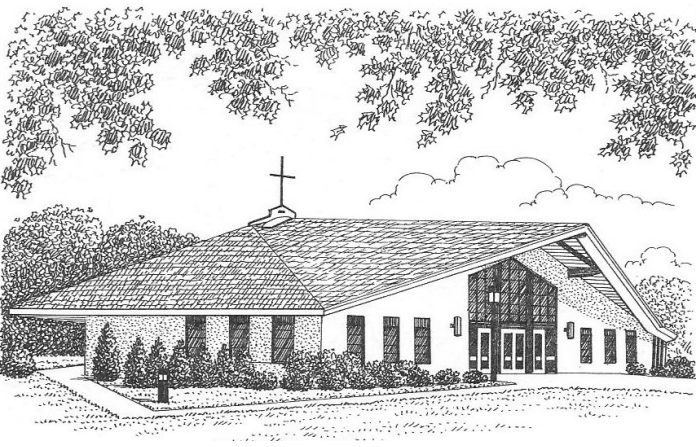


Why all the changes at Mass?

Part II



In an attempt to be consistent in our liturgical practice, not varying with the preferences of the individual presider, we have chosen to utilize the General Instructions of the Roman Missal and the

recommendations of our diocesan Bishop regarding the Sacred Liturgy. Hopefully the priests, deacon, altar servers, ministers, and the faithful may grow in harmony so as to provide a greater sense of reverence, communion, and appreciation for each other and the mysteries we celebrate.

Why the new cross next to the altar and what happened to our old one?

The “new cross” next to the altar is actually a free loaner, which is far easier to carry by our altar servers, until the original cross that matches the other sacred furnishings in our church may be lightened in weight and attached with the figure of Christ crucified. Its restoration is currently being done professionally by craftsmen in Italy, so as to keep the integrity of its original design intact.

In regard to its placement, #308 of the General Instructions of the Roman Missal states:

“On the altar or near it, there is to be a cross, with the figure of Christ crucified upon it, a cross clearly visible to the assembled people. It is desirable that such a cross should remain near the altar even outside liturgical celebrations, so as to call to mind for the faithful the saving Passion of the Lord.

Is it true that the ficus trees are being removed from the sanctuary?

Unfortunately yes! We are not sure if it is because of age, but the leaves are excreting a sap that is damaging our hardwood floor. As you may know, it recently cost nearly \$9,000.00 to have the floor sanded, re-stained and the church professionally cleaned. We have been advised the flooring cannot undergo further sanding without risking structural damage. In other words, the floor would need to be completely replaced, if further damage occurs. At this time that would be far too costly, therefore the trees are to be removed and the floor cleaned with a non-abrasive cleaner.

(over)

Rumor has it that the Tabernacle is to be moved, is this true?

Yes with the removal of the ficus trees, the void created would bring about an unbalanced arrangement in the sacred furnishings. Therefore, in speaking with members of the liturgy committee and the recommendations as presented by the General Instructions of the Roman Missal we have decided to place the tabernacle back to its original place behind the altar centered directly underneath the resurrected Christ.

#314 and #316 of the General Instructions of the Roman Missal states:

“In accordance with the structure of each church, the Most Blessed Sacrament should be reserved in a tabernacle in a part of the church that is truly noble, prominent, conspicuous, worthily decorated, and suitable for prayer.

“In accordance with traditional custom, near the tabernacle a special lamp, fueled by oil or wax, should shine permanently to indicate the presence of Christ and honor it.”

Thank you for your understanding, Fr. Paul.

