"All the things in this world are gifts of God, created for us, to be the means by which we can come to know him better, love him more surely, and serve him more faithfully."

St. Ignatius of Loyola

Dear Parents,

The First Holy Communion Masses of last weekend were beautiful!  Thank you all for the work and enthusiasm in your preparation of your children for this most important Sacrament.  Please continue to bring your children to Mass on the weekend, so that they may receive their second, third, fourth….Communions!  You may want to come to the 4:00 Mass this weekend and see classmates receive for the first time then!

This Thursday’s practice for the Saturday 4:00 Mass has been cancelled due to the passing of our Deacon, John Strmac.  The vespers and wake will begin at 3:00 on Thursday and go through the evening in the church.  The funeral will be on Friday morning.  All programs using the church have either been cancelled or moved to another location.  I ask that you arrive to the church early and be in your seats by 3:40.  The photographer will be set up and ready to begin by 2:30 in room 223.  I will take the children to the vestibule of the church (the Euclid Ave. entrance ‘lobby’) at 3:50 and we will go over what we practiced on Jesus Day.

You will find your seating by going down the center aisle of the church and finding your child’s banner hanging on the pew.  You have the entire pew for family seating.

After all First Holy Communion Masses are completed, l will be sending the Sacramental Information sheets to the rectory for filing into the Sacrament Logs.

If you have any suggestions for changes next year to the program, l am very willing to listen!

God bless,

Mrs. Gulden

*How to Receive the Eucharist*

* REV. ADRIAN J. PARCHER, O.S.B.

If you were to ask me what two dispositions are absolutely necessary to approach the table of the Lord, I would say without hesitation that the first is faith — deep belief in our Lord who is truly present, body and soul, humanity and divinity who becomes present at the words of consecration and who comes into our lives, into our very beings, assimilates us into himself, through the reception of the Eucharist That is whom we are receiving.  We celebrate what Jesus enacted at the Last Supper and on Calvary.  We represent that act to the Father and bring its benefits upon ourselves.

The Eucharist like all the great mysteries of our faith, is not something that one can explain rationally.  How can Jesus, how can God, be contained in what appears to be a small wafer of bread? But that's our strong belief, that Jesus is truly present on our altars.  Once we have received him in the Eucharist, he is present in our very persons, in our bodies.  We believe that by the reception of the Eucharist we become tabernacles, with our Lord contained within our very selves.  That is a marvelous mystery, and that's the first quality that we have to come with, that deep awareness, that deep faith, that deep belief.  That's what really makes Catholics Catholic.  Take away the Eucharist, and we're like everyone else.  There's no difference.  I think it was one of the French revolutionaries who said, "If I truly believed what the Church wants me to believe, that Christ truly becomes present on the altar at the moment of consecration, I would not walk to the communion rail — I would crawl on my belly.  That is how deep my faith and my humility would be."

Now we certainly don't expect anyone to crawl, but there has to be that depth of faith.  Out of that faith there has to come a devotion.  You know each of us is baptized into the priesthood of Jesus, and one of the ways in which ordinary baptized Catholics exercise that priesthood is by receiving Holy Communion.  That is the exercise of a power we have from Christ.  It's an act of worship and so we do it.  We come with devotion, we come with humility.  We come — how should I put it? — with great reverence and respect.  I think that's what many people complain about in our modern liturgy, the fact that the sense of reverence, of dignity, of awe, has disappeared.  But that's more in our disposition than in anything else.