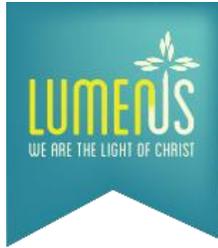


Liturgy



“Do this in memory of me.” Luke 22: 19-20

Liturgical participation is intended to transform us through the Eucharist, the ritual, the teaching, the community. Liturgy should create interest, engagement, and the opportunity to find a deeper relationship with Christ and each other. It should embrace the joys and sorrows of the week behind us, and send us forth in faith and hope for the week ahead.

Areas of Discovery

- Liturgy is the central celebration of our faith as well as our most fundamental ministry of faith formation, yet two thirds of parishioners do not participate.
- Many have expressed their satisfaction or dissatisfaction with our liturgy. Most comments pertain to parishioner participation, music, homiletics, and a welcoming atmosphere. Perceived areas of improvement most commonly mentioned are: developing a liturgy that inspires and creatively engages families and all generations of parishioners; offering participatory music more compatible with parishioners' vocal abilities and tastes for songs and instrumentation; creating greater opportunities for parishioner input and sharing of liturgical gifts; and promoting excellence in the liturgy's presentation.
- Our pastor has said, “The liturgy requires of us a setting aside of the quest for personal satisfaction; it demands self-abnegation, self-emptying, self-forgetfulness, so that our emptiness may be filled with the memory of Christ and with the fullness of his Spirit, which is the only way we will ‘rediscover’ that we are Christ’s Body, living food given for the life of this world . . . We do not stand around the altar simply for our own benefit but to stand before God on behalf of the world.”
- Our liturgy should be of a quality that creates an interest and offers an opportunity for further engagement, without diminishing its sacred intent.

Conversation Starters

- How do we balance the need to make liturgy a “setting aside the quest for personal satisfaction” with the need to attract parishioners into communion with one another through relevant message and spirit-filled celebration?
- How do we more fully engage all parishioners in liturgy, not out of obligation but to be transformed in Christ?
- How can leaders in liturgy, music, stewardship, faith formation and school collaborate in developing a liturgy that will help us “rediscover” that we are Christ’s Body, living food given for the life of this world, and that we leave our liturgy filled with the memory of Christ and with the fullness of his Spirit?
- Do we give parishioners the structure, inspiration and support to be “living food” for the world?
- What has Christ asked us to do in His memory? Does our expectation and execution of “doing this” in memory of Christ reflect what Christ is asking of us, or what we are asking for ourselves?