

A Special Message of Thanks from Fr. Larry

I wish to thank all of the parishioners who were able to attend the Dedication Day Mass and Luncheon last Sunday. Every part of it exceeded my hopes and certainly my expectations.

I did not get a chance specifically to express my gratitude to many of the following people: those who did both the heavy and light lifting while transporting the many items from our churches and hall in Chester and Westwood; those who helped clean and organize our new church, sacristy and hall; those who helped restore and place the statues; those who built our new missal bookcases; the wonderful choir that practiced for hours and led us beautifully in the sung prayer of the Mass; the four altar servers who performed their ministry with utmost reverence and excellence; those who graciously served as decorators, gift bearers, sacristans, ushers and greeters; those attended the multiple orientation sessions on the operational features of the church and grounds; and, of course, Christ the King Altar Society for providing a fantastic array of delicious, homemade salads and sandwiches, which miraculously fed 100 more people than we anticipated!

I also wish to offer words of encouragement and gratitude to those parishioners who have heavy hearts at the closing of our churches in Westwood and Chester and, yet, are persevering in their faith and participation in parish life. I give thanks to God for all of our parishioners who have helped this project become a reality. May God always bless you for your kindness, support and generosity.

■ Fr. Larry

Guidelines for Use of Our New Church and Hall

It will take us awhile to get settled in our new church. As we grow accustomed to it and begin to make use of the adjoining social hall, the following guidelines, among others, might prove helpful:

1. **Pray in Church; Talk in Hall**

The church has been dedicated by the bishop for silence, pray and worship. The hall is for socializing and fellowship. Now that we have two separate spaces for each, please try to respect these distinctions.

2. **Interior Church Doors**

Please keep the interior church doors closed before, during and after Mass. This will also allow the hall to serve as a “cry room” during Mass for parents with babies and little children.

3. **Missals and Hymnals**

We do not have the funds to purchase year-round Missals for all 220 chairs that are in the new church. To reduce cost and waste, we have a sufficient supply of Missals and hymnals to accommodate our normal Mass attendance. Therefore, you are asked to pick them up at the bookcases as you enter the church and return them there as you leave. Please do not leave missals and hymnals on the chairs or in their racks.

4. **Holy Water**

As you may know, “holy water” fonts are really baptismal water fonts. Placing the water on us as we enter the church is meant to serve as a way of reminding us of our baptismal vows and

dignity as children of God. Since we now have a baptismal font situated near the front doors of the church, it will serve as the source of the water we use to bless ourselves. Now that Bishop Soto has blessed the water, let us begin to practice this together and remind each other to do so.

5. **Bell**

The church bell should be rung approximately ten times about two minutes before Sunday and Holy Day Masses begin. Usually an usher or altar server will do this.

6. **Keys to the Kingdom**

Since we do not have a resident priest living on the grounds, it is especially important we strive to maintain adequate security. Keys are being issued to those who have a need to access and/or maintain the church and hall. A list of those who have keys is also being maintained. If you have been issued a key, please do not duplicate it or give it to others for duplication. If you need a key, please contact Fr. Larry or Fr. Mario.

7. **Lights, Doors and Heat**

If you gain access to the church and/or hall during the week, please make sure the lights and heat are turned off and the doors are securely shut as you leave. We are still having problems with the door closures, so until we resolve this issue, please be especially vigilant.

8. **Eucharistic Ministers**

Since it will take a little longer for Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion to walk to the altar, please begin to come forward following the Lamb of God as the priest is receiving the host. (Please also read Guideline no. 9.)

9. **Processions**

To reflect the common practice used at most parishes today, Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion will no longer take part in the processions at the beginning and end of Mass. The lector who carries in the Gospel Book, servers and clergy will process. The processional cross will be carried in the entrance procession, but not in the recessional.

10. **Devices to Assist Those with Hearing Impairment**

As required by the Americans with Disabilities Act, the church is equipped with hand-held devices with earphones which help enhance the sound for those with hearing impairment. To request one please ask the priest or one of the people who is assisting in the sacristy. After Mass, please return it to the small brown bin on the first row of the missal/hymnal bookcase to the right of the baptismal font. Should you like to purchase one, please contact Fr. Mario or Fr. Larry.

11. **Portico Parking**

The entry driveway in front of the social hall portico is for passenger drop-off and package delivery only. Please do not park your car there.

Thank you for your assistance.

Fr. Larry