

**On this first Sunday of Lent**, we are reminded that forty days of Lent calls us to perseverance in faith, because the forty days of Lent are a time of trial and purification. “Call upon me, and I will answer,” the Lord promises. Each of us is tempted, as Israel was, TO FORGET the great deeds He works in our lives, TO NEGLECT our birthright as His beloved sons and daughters.

Like Jesus, we are being tempted every day. These 40 days invite us to humbly investigate our lives and see if we have played our roles as members of God’s family. All of us, be it clergy or laity, each have specific roles to play. When we play our part well, the Kingdom of God is sustained. One of our temptation is not to give in to the promptings of the holy spirit.

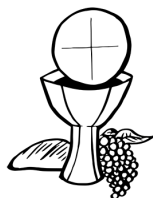
In Lent, I call you to pay attention to the liturgical ministries in the Church. This weekend we pay attention to the ministry of the EMHC – **Extraordinary minister of the Holy Communion**. It is a privilege and a responsibility for the lay faithful. Extraordinary ministers of the Holy Communion are people chosen from the faithful and deputed to take, distribute the Holy Eucharist to the faithful during Mass and to the sick and homebound in their homes. The extraordinary ministers represent the ordinary minister to the faithful gathered at the time of communion distribution. They bridge between those in the church for the Eucharist and those who are not able to come to the church due to sickness or age. The church always highly regarded this ministry because God is made visible through the ministers in special situations.

We need to be aware of the importance of this ministry and I more people to help the parish in this noble ministry. More hands make things easier. I request more people to dedicate their time and talent for the service of Eucharist. Therefore, prayerfully consider, and responsibly offer your lives, to be trained for this wonderful ministry. Blessings!

*Fr. Michael Jeeva Antony*



From March 6 through April 14th, you’re invited to join other Christians for 40 Days for Life – 40 days of prayer and fasting for an end to abortion. You’re also invited to stand and peacefully pray during a 40-day vigil in the public right-of-way outside the Planned Parenthood abortion clinic at 3579 Franklin Blvd., Eugene, Oregon 97403 (Glenwood area), and also to help spread the word about this important community outreach. On Sat., March 16th we are having a Divine Liturgy at Nativity of the Mother of God Ukrainian Catholic Church (704 Aspen St. in Springfield) at 11 a.m. and special prayers afterwards for the souls of those who died and especially the unborn, then we will have a simple lunch, and then go and pray at Planned Parenthood together. On Wed., March 20th, Fr. Ron Nelson of St. Mary’s Church in Eugene will lead us in prayers at 12:30 p.m. at Planned Parenthood. If you’d like more information – and especially if you’d like to volunteer to pray for an hour outside the facility or help in other ways, please contact: Eileen at [etmoregon@yahoo.com](mailto:etmoregon@yahoo.com) or 541-543-7168 or our Website page [40DaysforLife.com/Eugene](http://40DaysforLife.com/Eugene). Please join us. Thanks!



**Coming Soon at St. Peter...**

**Extraordinary Minister of Holy  
Communion Training -  
March 16 from 9:00-10:30am**

## **Some of the changes prescribed by the Archdiocese for the parishes**

Brothers and sisters in the Lord Jesus Christ! Eucharist is the source and summit of our lives. As such we are invited to take utmost care in the celebration of the Holy Eucharist. Keeping in mind the seriousness of the celebration and to uphold its sacred nature, the Archdiocese of Portland Liturgy Handbook has called for certain shifts in our practices during the Eucharist. There was a list of liturgical shifts that were proposed by the archdiocese and was published in the Catholic Sentinel issue dated 12/19/2018. These shifts recommended are not anything new to us but the practices we have failed to continue.

Now, after the promulgation of the Archdiocesan Liturgy Handbook, we are encouraged to make those shifts in our worship. I am glad that most of them are being followed by our parish. But I do understand that the following ones need to be understood with humility and utmost care. For years, we have been doing things differently and at times even deviated from clearly laid out directives in THE ROMAN MISSAL. Keeping in mind, the seriousness and the sacred nature of the celebration of the Holy Eucharist, we are invited to understand the mind of the church. I request the parishioners to properly understand the shifts recommended for the liturgy and then assimilate them in order to follow them in our worship.

- **During the Our Father, only the priest should pray with hands extended, not the lay faithful, according to norms in the United States. The holding of hands during the Our Father is not envisioned in the Roman Missal. While the posture has been adopted by families with small children, it should not be considered the norm. Some people may feel uncomfortable if it is imposed on them.**
- **The sign of peace is an act of peace and unity, not a “neighborly greeting” and should not become “extended or protracted exchanges of handshakes, hugs, and kisses, which delay the Lamb of God and disrupt the flow of the celebration of the Eucharist.”**

Furthermore, Msgr. Gerard O'Connor, director of the archdiocese's Office of Worship is conducting workshops on the Archdiocesan Liturgy Handbook throughout the archdiocese. The purpose of these sessions is to explain the handbook to the faithful and to clarify, and answer questions arising from the new directives. One of such Archdiocesan Liturgy Handbook workshop is scheduled for April 6, 2019 at St. Mary Catholic Church, Eugene, from 8.00 am to 11.30 am. It would be good for those who have questions and expect answers, clarifications, to participate and hear from Msgr. Gerard O'Connor. Let us put our minds and hearts together, to make our liturgy vibrant and inspiring in our parishes. Blessings!

*Fr. Michael Jeeva Antony*