



# FAITH FORMATION NEWSLETTER



June 2026

## SUMMER IS OFFICIALLY HERE!



With the conclusion of Vacation Bible School – a very special thanks to Emily Adickes, ALL of our wonderful Volunteers, and the many parents and kids who participated!!! - the school year has ended for K-8. Please continue to participate in and pray for our high school and college students gathering during the summer months. Summer is a busy time for families juggling sports, camps, summer jobs, and family vacations. I pray that you and your family will have a fun and safe summer together! Don't take a vacation from attending Mass and sharing your Catholic faith in your family!

Let me use a personal anecdote to illustrate the additional little surprises we may encounter when we remember to keep our Sundays (or Saturday evenings) for worshipping the Lord and attending Mass – truly, the high point of our week! No matter where we are.

Brenda and I recently spent a relaxing week fishing, canoeing, biking, walking, and briefly visiting an aunt and uncle in north-central Minnesota. We were in a beautiful home on a pretty lake. Everything was perfect and we had a delightful time. Our checkout was 10 am on Sunday and we planned to attend the 10:30 am Mass in little Pine River (north of Brainerd) on our way home. As we prayed before Mass, the priest entered the Sanctuary and proceeded to the Sacristy to prepare for Mass. Brenda had her head down in prayer so I gently nudged her with my elbow and whispered, “If that isn't Fr Mike Schmitz, he looks exactly like him.” Brenda smiled and continued to pray. Fr Mike Schmitz is one of our favorite priest ‘celebrities’. He’s a speaker, author, and podcaster based at the University of Minnesota Duluth as the director of youth and young adult ministry. If you watch, read, or listen to Fr Schmitz (e.g. think of “Bible in a Year” from Ascension Press), you know that he is a most dynamic, intelligent, and gifted man. Sure enough, as the Procession began, here came Fr Schmitz up the aisle with the altar servers and the parish priest. (Brenda almost jumped out to hug him.) Mass was beautiful, as always, and his homily was insightful and entertaining.





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The moral of the story: by fulfilling our Sunday obligation to attend Mass, we ALWAYS join our fellow Catholics (the Body of Christ) to worship and encounter God in His Word, His mercy and love, and in His most precious Body, Blood, Soul, and Divinity. And sometimes we might get to experience all of the greatness of the Holy Mass with a celebrity! Please don't take a vacation from worshiping God at Mass this summer! You know that you will encounter the King of the Universe. You also might encounter some pretty cool people.

**Finally, if you were a catechist (teacher) in 2025-2026, or if you are feeling the Holy Spirit calling you to teach, PLEASE fill out the spreadsheet that I sent out, or contact me to sign-up to teach in the 2026-2027 school year!**

**Families, be sure to watch for K-12 Faith Formation Registration information coming soon!**

## THE MASS

**The Mass: Let's conclude our consideration of the Mass by discussing the Concluding Rite.**

**The Concluding Rite:** This is a very short, but beautiful part that ends our Holy Mass and sends us out to live and love as Christ did. Remember that the word "Mass" comes from the Latin "missa" which means "to send out". The final blessing given by the priest in Latin was/is "Ite, missa est" "Go, you are sent". We are nourished with God's Word, Christ's Body and Blood, the Gifts of the Holy Spirit, and the fellowship we share with the 'body of Christ' – His Church/our fellow Catholics – to "Go in peace, glorifying the Lord by your life". Following the Liturgy of the Word, the Liturgy of the Eucharist, and our reception of Christ, our food for the journey, we conclude with:

- Prayer after Communion
- Brief announcements
- The greeting from the priest again, "The Lord be with you" and we respond, "And with your spirit"
- The final Trinitarian blessing, "May almighty God bless you, the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit" and we respond, "Amen".
- The priest says, "Go forth, the Mass is ended" or similar, and we respond "Thanks be to God."
- The Recession: the priest reverences the altar with a kiss and a bow, and we all sing together the recessional hymn.
- We strive to live our lives for Christ and for others – bringing the fruits of the Eucharist to the world - until we come together again at daily or weekend Mass.

**God Bless You!**

Ed Anderson-Director of Faith Formation

