

Worship and Our Parish

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“Worship allows one to realize that Faith is not simply a set of doctrines, but a relationship with a living person, Jesus Christ” ~ Pope Francis

Worship is giving honor to God by various acts. The word liturgy comes from a Greek term meaning public work or work done on behalf of the people. The liturgies of the church help us to give glory to God individually and communally, avail us of grace through the sacraments, and express our response to God’s call to discipleship. Every liturgical celebration is an action of Christ, our redeemer and high priest, as He continues the work of our redemption in, with, and through His Church. Thus, this "work of Jesus Christ," the perfect glorification of God and sanctification of men, is the true content of the liturgy.

Personal and communal prayer are central to the building up of the Body of Christ. Our worship as a community is an expression of our prayerfulness. In the celebration of the Eucharist and then other sacramental and liturgical celebrations, we gather together to proclaim our faith. In doing so we are carrying out the mission of evangelization by witnessing the Good News of Jesus Christ to one another and to all. Worship gives expression to the faith of our parish community and our degree of commitment to furthering the kingdom of God.

St. Veronica’s Parish Pastoral Council has been working in cooperation with Fr. PJ and Fr. Chang to review elements that are essential to nurturing and sustaining parish life. Worship is one of those elements. *We must focus on worship because if we lose our sense of worship, we lose our direction in the Christian life, which is a journey towards the Lord.* The sacraments are signs and instruments by which the Holy Spirit spreads grace throughout the Body of Christ. Our priests and deacons, in conjunction with our faith formation programs, strive to make the sacraments readily available to our parish family and ensure that they are faithfully received and celebrated.

Since the Eucharist is a priority in the life of the parish and should be celebrated with full and active participation, we are grateful for the parishioners who serve in liturgical roles and hope more will choose to serve. Our goal is to provide our ministries with the necessary training and support so that they can be effective in their ministry.

The worship environment should enhance our worship, so we have already begun to address our worship space. The peaceful blue color brightens our church, while complementing the beautiful stained-glass windows which depict the seven days of Creation and the seven Sacraments. Missals are once again available to allow more active participation in the Mass as we focus our hearts, minds, and voices on God. Music is another important element of worship, so we are actively seeking parishioners of all ages to join our choirs. Whether you are in the choir or in the pews, we hope you will lift your voice in praise to God.