

Keeping You Informed

New to our parish family is a Tabernacle in the place where we worship for Mass and the Sacraments. The tabernacle used to be in a side chapel, now known as the Eucharistic Adoration Chapel. In order to keep you better informed, we have compiled the following information to help with questions or concerns so that everyone is receiving the same message. One should consider the source of information which deviates from the following.

WHAT IS A TABERNACLE?

A Tabernacle, from our Jewish heritage was a container made of gold in which the Ark of the Covenant was kept. For Catholics today, this receptacle made of precious metal is the place of reservation for the Eucharist (i.e. the Blessed Sacrament or consecrated hosts).

WHY WAS THERE A NEED FOR A NEW TABERNACLE?

The security of the Eucharist had become compromised when it was discovered that individuals were accessing the tabernacle without the benefit of a key.

A year ago we were made aware of the fact that several individuals had their own personal key to the tabernacle. This is not allowed. The lock was changed. Individuals then began to push on the doors until they opened, thereby being able to access the Blessed Sacrament without a key. A locksmith was called in to correct the situation but was unable to fix the problem without breaking the tabernacle.

Because this tabernacle was designed for the chapel in which it resides, we overlooked the fact that the tabernacle was made of glass, a material not acceptable in the design of a tabernacle simply due to the fact that it is a breakable material and the Eucharist can be seen through it. This was overlooked until the security of the Eucharist became an issue. It was then decided a new tabernacle needed to be purchased.

WHY IS THE SECURITY OF THE EUCHARIST SO IMPORTANT?

The Eucharist IS the Body of Christ. It is THE most precious gift we have as a people of faith. It is held in reservation in the tabernacle to take to those who are sick and unable to come to Mass and for our worship.

WHY IS THE TABERNACLE MOVING FROM THE EUCHARISTIC ADORATION CHAPEL TO THE WORSHIP SPACE?

With the onset of the Second Vatican Council in 1963 originally it was suggested that the tabernacle be placed on a side altar or a separate chapel away from the church. Since that time the Church has asked that the tabernacle be placed back in the churches (worship space) and be on center axis with the altar. The altar of sacrifice is a symbol of Christ. The tabernacle contains the actual presence of Christ.

The worship space of Light of the World was originally designed as a multi-purpose space. It was used for worship and for social events. In the ongoing development of the parish facilities there was a plan for a Phase 4 building project to build a church. Finances have prevented this effort.

In 2005 the Archbishop asked that all places of worship remain sacred and specifically designated for worship. It was at this time we realized we could no longer use this space for our social events. The Liturgy Committee then decided, based on several factors, namely the permanent position of the screen used for the projection of words of prayer and song as well as the position of the chairs that would provide the greatest amount of seating, that the worship space should remain in its present design.

When the discussion of a new tabernacle was presented to members of the Pastoral Council, it was suggested that since the worship space was now designated as a permanent place of worship, the tabernacle should be placed in that space, now known as the "church."

DO WE HAVE TO GENUFLECT?

When entering the church (worship space) it is appropriate to genuflect or make a profound bow (from the waist) for those capable of making such a gesture of reverence acknowledging the presence of Christ in the tabernacle. It is then appropriate to genuflect or bow when leaving the church (worship space) or outside of the Mass when crossing in front of the altar. It is not appropriate to genuflect every time you pass the tabernacle while in the celebration of the Mass.

WHY ARE THERE TWO RED CANDLES ON EITHER SIDE OF THE TABERNACLE?

The red candles are known as Sanctuary lamps. They remind us that Christ is present in the tabernacle.

WHAT IS THE PROPER POSTURE FOR SITTING, STANDING, KNEELING WITH THE TABERNACLE NOW PRESENT IN THE WORSHIP SPACE?

Aside from our show of reverence by genuflecting (or a profound bow) when entering the church (worship space) or when leaving, little is different.

During Communion, we will continue to stand in solidarity as a family. The vessels will be purified and taken to the Mystical Supper Kitchen. The assembly will remain standing as the Eucharist is placed in the tabernacle. When the priest or deacon genuflects, the assembly will bow. The doors will be closed to the tabernacle and that will be the cue for the assembly to be seated.

CAN WE STILL TALK BEFORE AND AFTER MASS IN THE WORSHIP SPACE?

Certainly this is an appropriate question to ask. Bringing the tabernacle into our worship space does somewhat change the atmosphere of our place of worship. Although we have a place of perpetual adoration where people may go for quiet worship and prayer, namely the Eucharistic Adoration Chapel, we also want to be respectful of our brothers and sisters who want to prepare themselves before Mass in the worship space. Therefore, we should always be sensitive to one another and each others needs. It would therefore be appropriate to keep our conversations to a low volume in order to express that sensitivity.

The Gathering Space and the Community Center are places designed specifically for the social gathering of the faithful and should be used as such.

WHAT'S GOING TO HAPPEN TO THE OLD TABERNACLE?

It will remain in the Eucharistic Adoration Chapel, empty, and be used as a place of reservation fro the Blessed Sacrament when necessary. For instance, on Holy Thursday, following the Mass of the Lord's Supper, the Eucharist is placed in reservation. This would be the time for the old tabernacle to be used since it is temporary.

I NOTICED IN THE BULLETIN ON THE WISH LIST A DESIRE TO RENOVATE THE SANCTUARY. WHAT DOES THAT MEAN?

We have been struggling with the platforms staying in place, rocking and sometimes sliding causing people to trip or be less sure-footed.

Since this will be our permanent set-up for our worship space, it seems appropriate to fasten these platforms down, place permanent wiring for electricity and cover the flooring in a manner befitting the sacred space of the sanctuary. In addition because of the on-going movement of the musicians on and off the riser platforms, these too would be appropriately covered for less distraction when moving to and from the risers.

CAN YOU TELL ME MORE ABOUT THE BELLS THAT I'VE HEARD RINGING?

We were given the opportunity to have a Carillon to use temporarily to see if we'd like to have bells as a part of our parish life. Bells have always been a means of calling people to worship and reminding them throughout their day to stop and pray.

The cost of the Carillon system including the speakers and full installation is around \$10,000. This is not a done deal. If people donate to it, we will purchase the Carillon. If not, we will move forward without the sound of bells.

ARE THERE UPCOMING EVENTS WE SHOULD BE AWARE OF?

In the very near future we will be offering the **Holy Spirit Empowerment Seminar**. This is an opportunity for people to develop a deeper relationship with the Lord and have a greater awareness of the activity of the Holy Spirit in their lives. It will be January 21-25 & 29 from 7:00 to 8:30 p.m. each evening.

One Jan. 31st @ 7:00 p.m. Mary Beth Bonnaci will be speaking on "**The Theology of the Body.**" All are welcome.

LENT begins on Ash Wednesday, Feb. 6th. On Feb. 7th and 8th we will offer a **Healing Mission** as we continue to heal the brokenness within. During Lent on **Wednesday evenings we will have a Mass at 5:45 p.m. followed by a simple half hour teaching session on aspects of our faith.** On Fridays we will have our **Fish Fries and Stations of the Cross.**