

## FROM FR. JASON



Dear Brothers and Sisters,

I was really helped by last Sunday's celebration of the Solemnity of the Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ. I hope you were, too. May we all treat the Holy Eucharist with dignity and respect. Here are some dispositions which may help us and those around us grow in our union with Christ in the Eucharist:

**Holy Day of Obligation** • Every Sunday is a Holy Day of Obligation; please ensure that nothing takes precedence over this encounter with the Lord. • Seek to arrive at Church before Mass begins and take some time for an intimate conversation with the Lord (after setting our cell phones to "silent"). • Never leave the Church until after the Final Blessing and Recessional Hymn. • Genuflect upon entering the Church (to Christ present in the Tabernacle) and just before leaving. Men wearing a hat (or cap) should remove it upon entering the Church. • Do not receive the Eucharistic when in mortal sin, without first approaching the Sacrament of Penance. Also, if you are unsure whether your current marital (or other) situation permits you to receive the Eucharist, please speak with a priest. • Observe the "one hour fast" before receiving the Eucharist (and we need to train the children well in this regard, rather than giving them food to keep them quiet). • Receive the Eucharist on the 'throne' of our hands or on the tongue? One is not necessarily more "reverent" than the other. • Wear clothing that is more suitable for Church than for the beach, especially now that the hot weather is upon us. Our attire shows how much respect we have not only towards the Lord and others, but also for ourselves. And if we do not respect ourselves, in vain do we seek to gain the respect of others. •

The more we adopt these dispositions for ourselves, the more our youth and those around us will adopt them. Speaking of youth, next Sunday, June 16, at the 10:30 AM Mass, Bishop Saporito will confer the Sacrament of Confirmation on our 18 candidates. Let us pray for them, that the Holy Spirit may transform them and make them witnesses of Christ's Resurrection.

Also, this week we will celebrate the Memorial of St. Anthony of Padua, Priest, and Doctor of the Church. I am sure you have heard about St. Anthony, but how much do you know about him? Born in Portugal, not in Italy, Saint Anthony was baptized Fernando. He took the name Anthony when he became a friar. He was an Augustinian friar for 10 years before becoming a Franciscan. Saint Anthony has been credited with many miracles.

The reason for invoking Saint Anthony's help in finding lost or stolen items can be traced back to an incident in his own life. As the story goes, he had a favorite book of psalms that was very valuable to him. As this was before the invention of printing, the book was hand printed – but of even more value were his personal notes he had made in the Psalter to assist with teaching students in the Franciscan order. It was suspected that a novice leaving the community had stolen the Psalter. Anthony prayed for the return of his beloved possession. Shortly after, the novice returned the book and sought Anthony's forgiveness, which was given.

Finally, speaking of forgiveness, the Lord always forgives us when we repent and ask forgiveness for our sins. The more we experience His unfathomable Love for us and how he meets us in our cross, the more we will want to respond by not sinning and picking up our cross daily. The Lord told St. Margaret Mary Alacoque that individuals should go to confession at a minimum once a month. This sacrament is offered at O.L. Mother of the Church whenever you need, just ask. It is also scheduled for every Saturday, see the front of the bulletin or the parish website for the schedule.

Peace,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Fr. Jason". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal line extending from the end.