



CHURCH
OF THE
ASCENSION

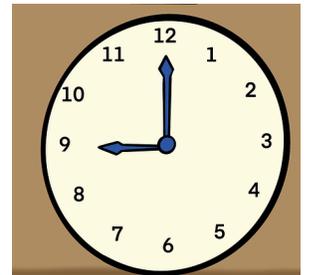
Worship Notes from the Rector

For the Fourth Sunday after Pentecost, June 20, 2021

'9AM at 10AM'

Features of this morning's mass will be unfamiliar to some, including:

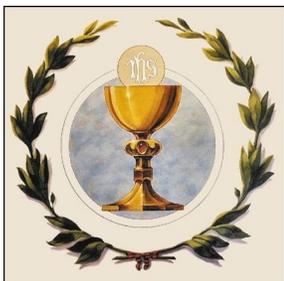
- Use of the free-standing altar.
- Propers chanted in English, not Latin, and the Introit omitted.
- Nicene Creed spoken, and in the form customary for Rite II.
- The Prayers of the People are led by a lay Intercessor rather than the Deacon



Some but not all will know that this is not, for Ascension, liturgical innovation or revision. This mass is, in fact, nearly identical to what would have been offered and shared today at 9:00 a.m. if the pandemic had not so compromised what we had all been taking for granted as normal.

Yes, but why offer *this form of the mass now*? I made the decision to use this form once a month during the summer after listening to diverse voices and mainly for pastoral reasons. This mass is the familiar norm for a considerable number of our members. Most who previously served as lay ministers for the 9:00 a.m. mass have had no opportunity to serve for fifteen months now. Re-introducing this form of the mass now will, I hope, make it easier for all of us to transition as we anticipate returning in coming months to more than one Sunday mass. Feel free to share your related questions.

What About the Chalice?



Diocese of Chicago guidance issued on Wednesday broadly eased pandemic restrictions (in sync with our recent easing here at Ascension) *except, notably with regard to the common cup for Communion. For several months, diocesan guidance has allowed individual cups of wine poured from a large cruet or flagon – language repeated in the most recent guidance. I am not alone, though, in recoiling at the thought of distributing the Blood of Christ in Dixie cups. All at Ascension with whom I've compared notes on this are in accord. This week's communication from the diocese did promise to remain current on evolving epidemiological data and implications. I regret the uncertainty and, even more, the ongoing deprivation for now.*

- Fr. Raymond +