

The Pastor's Column - September 21st, 2023



“Behold who you are, become what you receive!”

That was the instruction St. Augustine gave the newly baptized coming to communion. I'm a witness that that instruction still resonates all these centuries later as I have seen awe in the faces of those who come forward for the Eucharist. It's moved me to tears and has sustained my faith.

There's the older member approaching steadfastly yet slowly in a walker followed by a Mom with the sweet baby reaching out innocently to take the host. Then there is the young adult wearing a novel fashion, followed by one of our homeless neighbors. While many receive in the hand, others keep the custom of receiving on the tongue, a few kneel. After all these years I say to myself: It's all good. Whoever you are, come to Jesus.

The Eucharist is our food for the journey of life. It is what sustains us and transforms us more into the person God has called us to be at baptism. While life can throw us nasty curve balls, the Eucharist enables us to stay in the game and stay focused as the Spirit of God dwells in us. I am pleased that we will be offering more opportunities to encounter Jesus. A reminder to join us for our restored Saturday morning Mass starting October 7th at a new time, 9AM as well as for exposition of

the blessed sacrament on Friday mornings starting October 6th.

Overall, the communion lines are growing longer and there is an increased desire by many to receive from the chalice. We need help to serve everyone! If you are looking to get involved at St. Paul in a direct way, **consider becoming a Eucharistic Minister**. There is need at every Sunday Mass as well as daily Mass for more ministers. In addition, we need ministers to bring communion to the homebound. If you are interested in becoming a Eucharistic Minister or want to resume ministering, contact us at welcomecenter@stpaultheapostle.org. We will be in touch with more information.

God willing, by the First Sunday of Advent we will have expanded communion stations to serve our brothers and sisters in an expeditious manner. As always happens, ministers say they get more from their service than what they give. Seeing all the faces of those who come to Lord, that has certainly been my experience!

God Bless,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Fr. Eric".

Rev. Fr. Eric Andrews, CSP
Pastor, Church of St. Paul the Apostle (NYC)