

## *Pastor's Desk*

### Eucharistic Renewal (Continued)

We continue this week in supporting Bishop LaValley's priority of renewing understanding and appreciation of the Eucharist with our on-going catechesis from "The Mass" by Dr. Edward Sri. Previously, we dealt with acknowledging the Lord's presence with the sign of the cross and our greeting. We continue our prayer at Mass by turning to the Lord and acknowledging our sin and seeking his mercy. This is a time to pause with a brief examination of conscience. The "Confiteor" is a prayer admitting that through our own fault we have sinned in thought, word and deed and so we respond to this three-fold admission of guilt with a three-fold plea for God's mercy. The priest will lead and we respond: "Lord have mercy. Christ have mercy. Lord have mercy."

The sense of this mercy is exemplified in the parable story of the Prodigal Son where the wayward son, suffering in his misery, begins to see the sinfulness of his actions and humbly repents with a decision to return home to his father. The father seems to forget the evil his son has done and instead sees the good taking place in his son with his change of heart and his sorrow for his sins. Seeing that good, the father not only pardons his son but eagerly welcomes him back. Such is God's love for us when we express our sorrow for sin as we prepare to enter into the sacred mysteries of the Mass and the encounter with our All Holy Father.

In our next column we move from repentance to the joyful praise with our praying of the *Gloria*.

### Covid Update

In light of this week's announcement from New York State, Bishop LaValley has updated our Covid guidelines for attending Mass. People are still free to wear masks at church and maintain six feet distancing but **those who are fully vaccinated are no longer required to do so**. Children who are not vaccinated can sit with vaccinated adults. **Adults who are not vaccinated are still required to wear masks** except when receiving Holy Communion and they are to maintain six feet of separation from others except for those of the same household or bubble.

*Father Jay*