



Masses at Sacred Heart

At Sacred Heart every Saturday the 8am Mass is offered facing toward the High Altar. The Mass offered on Saturday mornings at Sacred Heart is called the *Jubilate Deo (Praise God)* Mass of Pope Paul VI, which is partially Latin and partially English.

The weekend of our Parish Family Feast Day Celebration (June 4th & 5th), the Pope Paul VI *Jubilate Deo* Mass will be offered with the help of the Knights of the Holy Eucharist, who will be serving the Mass and helping to sing the Mass. This Mass has been offered at Our Lady of the Angels Monastery in Irondale, Alabama for many years and when the Shrine of the Most Blessed Sacrament was built in Hanceville, the priests began offering Mass “*ad orientem*” at the request of Mother Angelica.

At St. Mary’s in Newton, Fr. Nick Voelker offers the extra ordinary form of the Mass (the Triditine Mass) at 8am on Saturdays. It has also been offered every Sunday at 1pm, at St. Anthony in Wichita. The Triditine Mass was the way Mass was offered from 1500’s until the 1960’s before Vatican II revised the Mass, which is now called the Novus Ordo Mass (New Order Mass).

The Mass is already being offered with the priest and the people facing the altar in at least two parishes in the diocese Church of the Resurrection in Wichita and St. Patrick for Parsons and will certainly begin to be offered in other parishes as well, as priests follow the advice of Cardinal Sarah. Will all Masses at Sacred Heart have the people and priest facing the high altar? Most likely, yes. Will more Latin be added to Sunday Masses? As the majority voted by the people a few years ago, the Lamb of God and the Holy Holy Holy are sung in Advent and Lent. Perhaps some special Masses could have more Latin.

Although our altars and churches may not at all face geographical East, our common focus is known as the liturgical “East”. Facing the east liturgically means both the people and the priest face the same direction.

Vatican liturgy chief urges priests to celebrate Mass facing east.



Cardinal Robert Sarah made the comments in an exclusive interview with *Famille Chrétienne* .

The Vatican’s liturgy chief has called on priests to celebrate Mass facing east. In an interview with the French Catholic magazine *Famille Chrétienne*, Cardinal Robert Sarah said that the Second Vatican Council did not require priests to celebrate Mass facing the people. This way of celebrating Mass, he said, (facing the people) was “*a possibility, but not an obligation*”. Readers and listeners should face each other during the Liturgy of the Word, he said. “*But as soon as we reach the moment when one addresses God – from the Offertory onwards – it is essential that the priest and faithful look together towards the east. This corresponds exactly to what the Council Fathers wanted.*”



Cardinal Sarah, prefect of the Congregation for Divine Worship and the Discipline of the Sacraments, rejected the argument that priests celebrating Mass facing east are

turning their backs on the faithful “*or against them*”. Rather, he said, all are “*turned in the same direction: towards the Lord who comes*”. “*It is legitimate and complies with the letter and spirit of the Council,*” he said. “*As prefect of the Congregation for Divine Worship and the Discipline of the Sacraments, I wish to recall that the celebration versus orientem is authorized by the rubrics, which specify the times when the celebrant must turn to the people. It is therefore not necessary to have special permission to celebrate facing the Lord.*”

Cardinal Sarah’s remarks echo an article he wrote a year ago for L’Osservatore Romano, in which he said it was “*altogether appropriate, during the penitential rite, the singing of the Gloria, the orations and the Eucharistic prayer, that everyone, priest and faithful, turn together toward the East, so as to express their intention to participate in the work of worship and redemption accomplished by Christ.*”

The cardinal added in the article that Mass facing east could be “*implemented in cathedrals, where the liturgical life must be exemplary*”.

<http://www.catholicherald.co.uk/news/2016/05/26/vatican-liturgy-chief-urges-priests-to-celebrate-mass-facing-east/>



This is the pope’s private chapel. Pictured are both Pope Francis and Pope Benedict. The altar is against the wall which requires the pope and the people to face the same direction.

Going Toward the East

The natural solution to this “community centered” focus, rather than God focused, is to once again “*turn to the Lord who is coming to us.*” Although our altars and churches may not at all face geographical East, our common focus is known as the liturgical “East”. “*For just as the congregation in the synagogue looked together toward Jerusalem, so in the Christian liturgy the congregation looked together “toward the Lord”.* (SoL pg. 80) We may not face true East, yet, “*On the other hand, a common turning to the east during the Eucharistic prayer remains essential. This is not case of something accidental, but of what is essential. Looking at the priest has no importance. What matters is looking together at the Lord*” (SoL, pg. 81).

Spirit of the Liturgy, by Cardinal Ratzinger (Pope Benedict).