**The History of Sacred Heart of Jesus Parish**

**10. Changes in Liturgy and Religious Activity**

Many changes in liturgy and church practices have occurred during the 95-year history of Sacred Heart of Jesus parish.

Parish societies were important from the early years. An **Altar Society**, forerunner of the present Altar and Rosary Society, was established in 1921, the year after the parish’s founding. The **Holy Name Society** was established in 1924.

There are numerous references in parish history to a youth organization. In 1934, Father Ott established separate societies for young men and young women. Father Zimpfer combined these into a single organization in 1942. Father Hall started a Catholic Youth Council in 1955, and Father Kieber revitalized it as the **Catholic Youth Organization** (CYO) in 1970.

**Religious education** for children attending public schools began in the parish in 1934. Known then as the **Confraternity of Christian Doctrine (CCD)** program, it was initially held on Saturday mornings, and later on Thursday afternoons. Attendance in the early years was not very good. In 1940, some classes were held in private homes on Tuesdays and Wednesdays, and some in church on Friday afternoons. In 1941, the practice of holding classes on Sunday morning began, and attendance improved. Classes were headed by the Sisters of St. Francis for many years. In fall 1979, William Glaeser became the first lay person to head our CCD program. Today, the program is known as **Faith Formation.**

1941 also saw the beginnings of the **people’s participation in reciting Mass prayers**. Father Zimpfer began instructing the children to recite the Gloria and Credo, in Latin, with the priest. Soon the entire congregation was involved.

**Holy Week** liturgy was changed in 1956, in order to get better attendance at these services. **Holy Thursday** services were changed from morning to evening, representative of the Last Supper. **Good Friday** services were scheduled in the afternoon, at the time of the Crucifixion. **Holy Saturday** services, which had been poorly attended when held in the morning, were changed to an Easter Vigil service on Saturday evening.

Advent of 1964 saw the initial use of **lay lectors** at Mass. It would be another 13 years until lay Eucharistic Ministers were introduced.

Following the Second Vatican Council in 1970, many liturgical changes occurred. Altars were relocated so that the **priest now faced the people**, and Mass was in **English.** A three-year cycle of the three readings – first reading, second reading, and gospel – was introduced.

**Saturday evening Masses** were introduced to satisfy the Sunday obligation. Sacred Heart’s first Saturday evening Mass was at held 8:00 PM on July 3, 1970. In October 1971, the time was changed to 6:30. In subsequent years, the time moved to 4:30 and then to 4:00.

August 1972 saw the introduction of the **missalettes** to assist the people in participating in the Mass. The current form of the **sign of peace** was introduced at the end of 1973; previously one side of the congregation would greet the other.

**Vigil Masses** for Holy Days began in 1976, along with the option of receiving the **Sacrament of Reconciliation face-to-face** with the priest. November 20, 1977 marked the beginning of the option of receiving **Holy Communion in the hand** rather than on the tongue. A week later, we first used **lay Extraordinary Ministers of the Eucharist**. Sacred Heart’s initial ministers were Paul Curtis, Gerry Reimondo, and Cliff Saxer. Five other were soon appointed: Eileen Carothers, Liza Klimeczko, John Pazder, Jacqueline Peters, and Patricia Stahrr.

In October 1985, the practice of members of the congregation bringing forth the **wine, water and hosts at Offertory** began. In early 1991, the **option to receive Holy Communion under both species** – the Body of Christ and the Blood of Christ – was introduced.

In 1993 the obligation to attend Mass on certain Holy Days became **optional** if the Holy Day fell on a Saturday or Monday.

Our parish has seen many liturgical changes over its 95 years.