



### **Altar Announcements at Weekend Masses**

The “General Instruction of the Roman Missal”, the document that contains the liturgical laws that guide the Mass, states that the announcements after the Prayer after Communion should be “brief” and only given if “necessary” (GIRM, 90). The addition of too many elements to the Mass, such as too many announcements, can cause the opposite of the desired effect of uplifting our hearts to God in prayer. Too many announcements can even change the nature of the celebration of the liturgy. They could prolong the Mass unnecessarily.

St. Gregory the Great is a very large and active parish with many ministries and organizations. The parish staff and clergy get many requests to make announcements from the altar. Every request for an announcement at the end of Mass by ministries or organizations simply cannot be granted without violating principles of fairness and objectivity.

Please know that other than altar announcements, there are multiple forms of communication that can and should be used as the means for making parishioners aware of events. There are traditional methods such as the bulletin, printed flyers and posters, and the use of the Gathering Space. We also have electronic forms of communication: email, screens in the gathering space, the parish website, and weekly social media blasts. These are the primary outlets that ministries and organizations should use for communication with our parishioners, so that the liturgy of the Church can stand on its own with its own proper purpose. All ministries and organizations are free to utilize the other forms of communication as fully as possible. Submissions for the bulletin and all electronic media may be sent to Susan Scibilia, Director of Communications, at [sscibilia@stgregorythegreat.org](mailto:sscibilia@stgregorythegreat.org).

By limiting the number of altar announcements, I believe that it will encourage parishioners to look for information from the other means of communication that we have. Most importantly, it

will even further promote the integrity of the Sunday liturgy as called for by the “General Instruction of the Roman Missal”.

For these reasons, requests for altar announcements will only be granted if the ministry or organization can demonstrate that it is “necessary” for their announcement to be made at the end of Sunday liturgy.

Effective March 5, 2016.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michael T. McClane". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Rev. Michael T. McClane

Pastor