



faith FORMATION

ST. JUDE CATHOLIC CHURCH // VOLUME 1 // ISSUE 39 // JUNE 8, 2023

The Solemnity
of the Most Holy
Body and Blood of Christ

In the Beginning...

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Growing up as a Protestant, we had a King James translation of the Bible. I liked trying to read it with all of its Thees and Thous. As we approach the Solemnity of the Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ, I recall a passage that people sometimes use in a colloquial sense: "O Ye of little faith!" It comes from Matthew 14:31 when Peter tried to walk on water with Jesus and ended up falling in. Peter's faith was not enough to sustain him.

Now let's turn our attention to this Sunday (which is also known as the Feast of Corpus Christi). I'm going to suggest that every time we go to Mass, we have a chance to walk on water. Do we trust what the Lord has told us? Do we believe that the Eucharist is Christ truly present, body, blood, soul and divinity? Are we willing to step out of the boat and take that walk? Or do we sink as we approach communion? As we accept Jesus into our bodies, is He saying "O Ye of little faith!"?

Or do we approach Christ in the Eucharist proclaiming as Thomas did in the upper room after seeing His wounds, "My Lord and my God!" (John 20:28). Thomas doubted, but believed when he saw. Doubt is a normal, but perilous thing. We mustn't let our doubt cloud our faith. On the contrary doubt can be used to strengthen our faith. Sometimes that doubt can encourage us to research more and to pray more. Doubt can deepen our faith if we don't live in the doubt, but seek to assuage it instead.

"Jesus said to him, 'Have you come to believe because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and have believed.'" (John 20:29)

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Confession

Saturday: 2:00 - 3:30PM
Also, by appointment

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Friday: 8:30AM

Weekend Mass

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SUNDAY LITURGY REFLECTION

By Scott Hahn

Readings:

[Deuteronomy 8:2–3, 14–16](#)

[Psalm 147:12–15, 19–20](#)

[1 Corinthians 10:16–17](#)

[John 6:51–58](#)

[LISTEN HERE](#)



The Eucharist is given to us as a challenge and a promise. That's how Jesus presents it in today's Gospel.

He doesn't make it easy for those who hear Him. They are repulsed and offended at His words. Even when they begin to quarrel, He insists on describing the eating and drinking of His flesh and blood in starkly literal terms.

Four times in today's reading, Jesus uses a Greek word—*trogein*—that refers to a crude kind of eating, almost a gnawing or chewing (see [John 6:54, 56, 57, 58](#)).

He is testing their faith in His Word, as today's First Reading describes God testing Israel in the desert.

The heavenly manna was not given to satisfy the Israelites' hunger, as Moses explains. It was given to show them that man does not live by bread alone but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.

In today's Psalm, too, we see a connection between God's Word and the bread of life. We sing of God filling us with "finest wheat" and proclaiming His Word to the world.

In Jesus, "the living Father" has given us His Word come down from heaven, made flesh for the life of the world.

Yet, as the Israelites grumbled in the desert, many in today's Gospel cannot accept that Word. Even many of Jesus' own followers abandon Him after this discourse (see [John 6:66](#)). But His words are Spirit and life, the words of eternal life (see [John 6:63, 67](#)).

In the Eucharist we are made one flesh with Christ. We have His life in us and have our life because of Him. This is what Paul means in today's Epistle when he calls the Eucharist a "participation" in Christ's body and blood. We become in this sacrament partakers of the divine nature (see [1 Peter 2:4](#)).

This is the mystery of the faith that Jesus asks us believe. And He gives us His promise: that, sharing in His flesh and blood that was raised from the dead, we too will be raised up on the last day.

"51 I am the living bread which came down from heaven; if any one eats of this bread, he will live for ever; and the bread which I shall give for the life of the world is my flesh."

52 The Jews then disputed among themselves, saying, "How can this man give us his flesh to eat?" 53 So Jesus said to them, "Truly, truly, I say to you, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of man and drink his blood, you have no life in you; 54 he who eats my flesh and drinks my blood has eternal life, and I will raise him up at the last day."

JOHN 6:51-54

Source: [St. Paul Center](#)

The Gospel at Home

THE SOLEMNITY OF THE MOST HOLY BODY & BLOOD OF CHRIST

Gospel Reading:

John 6:51-58

Jesus says, "I am the living bread."

Background on the Gospel Reading

This Sunday we celebrate a second solemnity during this period of Ordinary Time in the liturgical calendar. Today is the Solemnity of the Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ. This day was once called Corpus Christi, which is Latin for "Body of Christ." In the revised Lectionary the name for this day is expanded to reflect more completely our Eucharistic theology.

Today's Gospel is taken from the Gospel according to John. The reading is part of a discourse between Jesus and a crowd of Jews. The discourse comes shortly after the miracle of Jesus' multiplication of the loaves and fishes. In John's Gospel, miracles such as this are identified as "signs" through which people come to believe that Jesus is the Son of God. These signs are followed by dialogue, or discourse that interprets and explains the miracle. In John's Gospel, Jesus' multiplication of the loaves is said to have occurred near Passover, thus linking it to the Exodus story and God's saving action toward the Israelites.

Having seen Jesus multiply the loaves and fishes, the crowd pursues him, perhaps seeking more food but also looking for another sign. Jesus tells the crowd that he is the bread of life. He explains that just as God gave the Israelites manna to sustain them in the desert, so now God has sent new manna that will give eternal life. It is in this context that Jesus repeats those words in today's Gospel and tells them again that he is the living bread that came down from heaven.

Jesus' words are not well understood by the crowd; they argue that Jesus is not from heaven but born of Mary and Joseph. The crowd also has trouble understanding how Jesus could give them his flesh to eat. Jesus tells them that when they eat his flesh and drink his blood, they will remain forever connected to him. These are difficult words, but they are important because they seek to show us our intimate connection with Jesus.

This is the mystery that is at the heart of our Eucharistic theology. In the elements of bread and wine, Jesus' Body and Blood are truly present. When we share in the Body and Blood of Christ, Jesus himself comes to dwell within us. This communion with the Lord makes us one body, brings us eternal life, and sends us forth to be Christ's Body in the world.

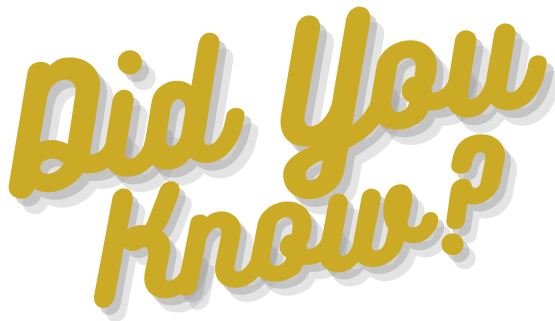
Family Connection

Our faith teaches us that when we gather to celebrate Mass, Jesus is present to us. The bread and wine truly become the Body and Blood of Christ. This is what we mean by the word transubstantiation: Jesus makes himself present to all who receive the Body and Blood of Christ.

If there are children in your family who have already celebrated their First Holy Communion, invite them to share their memories of this special day. If there are family photos taken on this occasion, bring them out and share them together. Adults in the family may also share memories or photos that they have of their First Communion. Then read together today's Gospel, John 6:51-58. Reflect together on what Jesus means when he calls himself the "living bread." Recall that every time we receive the Eucharist, Jesus keeps the promise he made in today's Gospel—those who eat his flesh and drink his blood will remain forever connected to him. Perhaps family members can share what it means for them to receive Jesus in the Eucharist. Together thank God for this gift of Holy Communion. Pray together the Lord's Prayer or today's Psalm.

"55 For my flesh is food indeed, and my blood is drink indeed. 56 He who eats my flesh and drinks my blood abides in me, and I in him. 57 As the living Father sent me, and I live because of the Father, so he who eats me will live because of me. 58 This is the bread which came down from heaven, not such as the fathers ate and died; he who eats this bread will live for ever."

JOHN 6:55-58



Corpus Christi Fun Facts

What does the Solemnity of Corpus Christi celebrate?

Also known as the Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ, this feast honors Jesus Christ, Really, Truly and Substantially Present under the appearances of bread and wine. This Presence happens through the change which the Church calls transubstantiation ("change of substance"), when at the Consecration of the Mass, the priest says the words which Christ Himself pronounced over bread and wine, "This is My Body," "This is the chalice of My Blood," "Do this in remembrance of Me." In 2023, the Solemnity of Corpus Christi is on June 8, but it is transferred to Sunday, June 11 in some dioceses.

Why do Catholics celebrate Corpus Christi?

The Catholic Church honors Christ's Presence in the Holy Eucharist with a special feast owing to St. Juliana of Liège, a 13th-century Norbertine canoness from Belgium. She had a great love for the Eucharist. When she was 16, she had a vision in which the Church was a full moon with a dark spot. The dark spot signified that the Church was missing a feast dedicated solely to the Body and Blood of Christ. Even though she had this vision several times, St. Juliana didn't think that she could do anything to help institute this feast. Therefore, she kept it a secret for many years. Once she was elected prioress, she finally told her confessor, who in turn told the bishop. This eventually led to the universal feast of Corpus Christi.

Why is the Solemnity of Corpus Christi important?

The Eucharist is the "source and summit of the Christian life" (Second Vatican Council, Lumen gentium, no. 11). In the Eucharist, Jesus Himself re-presents for our benefit His Sacrifice on Calvary (Luke 22:19-20; 1 Cor. 11:26-29), gives Himself to us in Holy Communion (Exodus 16:4, 35; John 6:1-14, 48-51), and remains among us until the end of the age (Luke 24:13-35; Mt. 28:18-20). He comes to us in this humble form, making Himself vulnerable, out of love for each one of us. Yet, as God Himself, the Body and Blood of Christ deserves our utmost respect and love, as well as our adoration.

St. Thomas Aquinas, Hymn "Tantum Ergo":

"Down in adoration falling, Lo! the sacred Host we hail; Lo! o'er ancient forms departing, Newer rites of grace prevail; Faith for all defects supplying, Where the feeble senses fail."

St. Francis of Assisi said, "...In this world I cannot see the Most High Son of God with my own eyes, except for His Most Holy Body and Blood."

UPCOMING EVENTS

Opportunities to Grow in Faith

Saturday, June 10:

9:30am - 5:30pm at Aquinas College: Sturrus Sports & Fitness Center. Join Catholics from across the diocese to strengthen your faith. Registration is just \$10/person or \$40 for a family. Come for all or a portion of the day. All ages are welcome! Register at: bit.ly/intothemysteryregister

4:00pm - Mass

Sunday, June 11:

8:30am - Mass

10:30am - Mass

Tuesday, June 13:

7:00pm - Men of Emmaus in the Millennium Conference Room.

Wednesday, June 14:

8:30am - Senior Men's Group in the Thaddeus Center.

ST. JUDE VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL:

JULY 24-28; 9am – 12noon

Register your children ages 4 through 5th Grade

NOW @ <https://stjudes.net/vbs/>

VOLUNTEERS ARE STILL NEEDED

Contact Janet DeBoe at 616/240-2720 or jdeboe@stjudes.net.



JOIN US FOR A
**SUMMER
OF SAINTS**

STARTING
July 7!

HOW THE
SAINTS
SHAPED
HISTORY



RANDALL PETRIDES

STARTING July 7 at 6:30pm in the Brophy Center...

Author Randy Petrides will give a presentation on his newly released book *How the Saints Shaped History*. It's a fascinating chronological look at how more than 180 saints, from Saint Mary Magdalene to Pope Saint John Paul II, led the Church through many crises and back to her spiritual roots. Books will be available for purchase.

AND THEN.... for the following four weeks we'll screen a movie based on the life of one of the Saints that Randy talks about in his book!

July 14, July 21, July 28, August 4 at 6:30pm in the Brophy Center

"Jesus replied,
'The first is
this: 'Hear, O
Israel! The Lord
our God is Lord
alone! You shall
love the Lord
your God with
all your heart,
with all your
soul, with all
your mind, and
with all your
strength.'"

MARK 12:29-30

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The Body and Blood of Christ

Today we celebrate the feast day of the Body and Blood of Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament. At the Last Supper, Jesus knew that He was going to leave His friends. So He turned the bread into His Body and the wine into His Blood - even though they still looked like bread and wine - and told the Apostles to do the same.

Jesus gave the Apostles, who were the first priests, the power to change bread and wine into His Body and Blood in the Mass. Now at every Mass Jesus comes to us on the altar, Body and Blood, Soul and Divinity!

Of course we can't see any change happen when the priest consecrates the bread and wine, but we know that God can do things without us understanding them. He loves us so much that He wants to come to us hidden in Holy Communion. Now it is up to us to love Him back with our whole hearts!



Answer to puzzle on front: Living Bread.

Answers to match-up puzzle:

A-2, B-6, C-7, D-4, E-1, F-5, G-3.

The Kids' Bulletin

Feast of the Body and Blood of Christ

June 11th, 2023



What did Jesus say
in today's Gospel
reading?

Put the letters in
order to fill in the
blanks at the bottom.

G

N

D

V

B

A

L

I

R

E

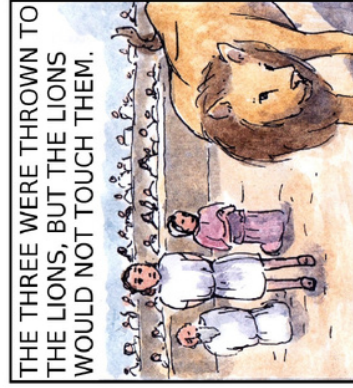
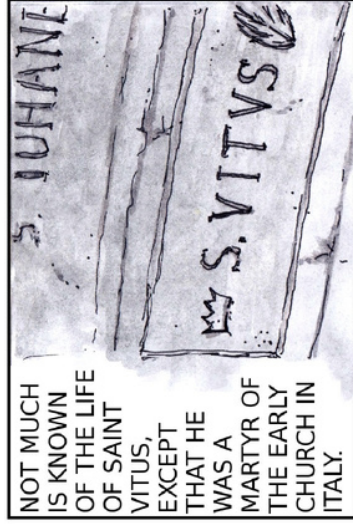
I

"I am the _____

which came down from Heaven."

Saint Vitus

June 15

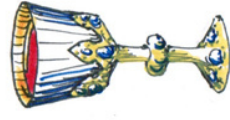


ALTHOUGH WE DON'T KNOW MUCH ABOUT SAINT VITUS, WE DO KNOW THAT HE WAS A HERO WHO GAVE UP HIS LIFE FOR GOD. HE IS THE PATRON SAINT OF DANCERS, ACTORS, AND AGAINST STORMS. HIS NURSE AND HIS TUTOR ARE GOOD EXAMPLES TO US BECAUSE THEY TAUGHT THE FAITH AT THE COST OF THEIR LIVES.



Gospel Match-up

How well do you know today's Gospel story? See if you can match up the first parts with the second parts of what Jesus told the people.



- | | | |
|---|---|------------------------------|
| I am the living bread | 1 | food indeed, |
| if any one eats of this bread, | 2 | which came down from heaven; |
| the bread which I shall give for the life of the world | 3 | abides in me, and I in him. |
| Unless you eat the flesh of the Son of man and drink his blood, | 4 | you have no life in you |
| For my flesh is | 5 | is drink indeed. |
| and my blood | 6 | he will live for ever; |
| He who eats my flesh and drinks my blood | 7 | is my flesh. |