



WEEK 3: Corpus Christi Sunday, June 6, 2021

Our Mission: Share Christ with the World

Our Vision: A dynamic and joyful church where people experience God's saving love.

We Value: Soul-Stirring Sacramental Celebrations

First Reading: Ex 24:3-8 • **Second Reading:** Heb 9:11-15

Gospel: Mk 14:12-16, 22-26

On the first day of the Feast of Unleavened Bread, when they sacrificed the Passover lamb, Jesus' disciples said to him, "Where do you want us to go and prepare for you to eat the Passover?"

He sent two of his disciples and said to them, "Go into the city and a man will meet you, carrying a jar of water. Follow him. Wherever he enters, say to the master of the house,

'The Teacher says, "Where is my guest room where I may eat the Passover with my disciples?"'

Then he will show you a large upper room furnished and ready. Make the preparations for us there." The disciples then went off, entered the city, and found it just as he had told them; and they prepared the Passover. While they were eating, he took bread, said the blessing, broke it, gave it to them, and said, "Take it; this is my body." Then he took a cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them, and they all drank from it. He said to them, "This is my blood of the covenant, which will be shed for many. Amen, I say to you, I shall not drink again the fruit of the vine until the day when I drink it new in the kingdom of God." Then, after singing a hymn, they went out to the Mount of Olives.

REFLECTION

We contemplate the great gift of the Holy Eucharist – the Solemnity of the Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ. In our great feast days and Solemnities – we hear in the Gospels about the great mysteries and guideposts of our faith. Easter, which set us on the path of our Mission – why we exist – to *Share Christ with the World*. Pentecost, inspiring us to take that mission and cast a vision for our parish so that others will know Saint Mary Magdalen as *A Dynamic and Joyful Church where people experience God's Saving Love*.

We live these out as Christian stewards in many ways, most especially in what we value. Today, we want to break open the value of Soul-stirring Sacramental Celebrations, as presented through Corpus Christi Sunday.

We listen to Mark's account of the institution of the Eucharist. Through his sacrifice, Jesus established a new covenant. A new rite— the Eucharist— a perpetual reminder of the intimate bond between God and his people, and his people to each other through God. So we celebrate the abiding eucharistic presence and power of the Lord, body, blood, soul and divinity.

DISCUSSION

1. What does the Eucharist mean to you? Why do you keep coming?
2. Easter, Pentecost, Trinity Sunday, Corpus Christi all bring out the great mysteries of our Catholic faith. How do they challenge you as believers? Do you find it hard to take Jesus at his word – “This is MY BODY, this is MY BLOOD.”
3. Before & After: Half the Gospel Jesus talks about preparing How do you prepare to come to Mass? Do you fast? Confession? Arrive early to pray and bring your own Mass “intentions” of the week? How do you feel after Communion, after you leave church? Aligned? Ready for mission?
4. What helps you to be more engaged in the Mass and what hinders you? Share what experiences, elements of Mass stir your soul, open your heart?

SHARING WHAT WE VALUE – SOUL-STIRRING SACRAMENTAL CELEBRATIONS

St. Thomas Aquinas did not hesitate to call Eucharist, “the greatest miracle that Christ ever worked on earth.” Can you see the 3 miracles in Eucharist that are brought forth in church teaching?

- a. Bread and Wine become Body & Blood of Christ
- b. Body & Blood of Christ transforms us in Christ
- c. The miracle fewer of us notice: uniting us with Christ and to one another – in love, in sacrifice, is mission, the “for many” Jesus spoke of in the Gospel.

• How might you, your group, the parish go about reaching out to Catholics who no longer come to the Eucharist? Think about your Eucharist story – what would you share?

VOICES & TEACHINGS – Eucharist, Mass, Mission

Lumen Gentium: “In the sacrament of the eucharistic bread, **the unity of all believers who form one body of Christ** is both expressed and brought about” – through whom we go forth, through whom we live and toward whom our whole life streams.

Pope Benedict XVI: Today, as we honor the Body and Blood of our Lord in the Eucharist, we are reminded that this sacrament must reside at the very center of our lives. **We cannot expect to go about doing the work of Christ if we have not first gone to Him at the altar.**

Pope Francis: Dear friends, **we don’t ever thank Lord enough for the gift he has given us in the Eucharist! It is a very great gift and that is why it is so important to go to Mass on Sunday.** Go to Mass not just to pray, but to receive Communion, the bread that is the Body of Jesus Christ who saves us, forgives us, unites us to the Father. It is a beautiful thing to do! And we go to Mass every Sunday because that is the day of the resurrection of the Lord. That is why Sunday is so important to us. And in this Eucharist we feel this belonging to the Church, to the People of God, to the Body of God, to Jesus Christ. We will never completely grasp the value and the richness of it. **Let us ask him then that this Sacrament continue to keep his presence alive in the Church and to shape our community in charity and communion, according to the Father's heart.**