

Today we celebrate Corpus Christi — the Body and Blood of Christ. Jesus' Body and Blood was sacrificed for us on Calvary, but before that excruciating event, He humbly bound Himself to human hands in the Eucharist. As St. Thomas Aquinas expresses, "In this sacrament sins are purged away, virtues are increased, and the soul satiated with an abundance of every spiritual gift. No other sacrament is so beneficial."

Jesus gave us the perfect and loving Gift of Himself so that we might be nourished, strengthened, and more fully united to Him as we journey to eternal life. This glorious solemnity calls us to reflect on the precious gift of the Eucharist and what it truly means for us as Catholics.

Our Gospel today recounts the Last Supper. As Jesus ate the Passover meal with His apostles, He broke bread, telling them, "This is my Body," and again, poured wine, saying, "This is my Blood...which will be shed for

many." In this moment, Jesus sacrificially gave us Himself in the Eucharist by foreshadowing His passion, death, and resurrection. The Eucharist, what we celebrate at each Mass, is the real presence of our Savior — Body, Blood, Soul, and Divinity. It is not a symbol of Jesus or even just a piece of Him. It is all of Him, given to each of us. As St. Catherine of Siena said, "Even if it would be possible to fragment the Holy Eucharist into thousands of tiny Particles, in each one of the tiny Particles there is the presence of Christ, the whole God and the whole Man." Out of total love, Jesus holds nothing back from us. He gives us His entire self. We must ask ourselves, do we understand Who we consume at every Mass? It is our Precious Redeemer.

As life becomes busy and our minds are filled with the countless things we must get done each day, we often forget to acknowledge our Savior at Mass, or to spend time with Him throughout our week; or to accept all the graces He wishes to bestow on us as we receive Him. So let us stop and recognize the real presence of our Savior.

It begins as we walk into the church each week. Where do our minds and hearts focus? Is it on which pew we might sit in, if our friend is at Mass, or are we wrapped up in a thought of "thank goodness we made it before the Gospel?"

In our humanity, it is so easy to think of these things, but as we enter the church, we should strive to leave the world outside and enter into God's time. We should draw our eyes, minds and hearts to the One we came to see lain in the Tabernacle. Recall, it is truly Jesus' presence we have just entered. It is God before us. Let's greet Him with reverence as we bend one knee or bow before Him. Let us strive to sit in silence and speak to Him from your mind and heart. This can be difficult for us with the distractions of what is going on around us or if we have young kids. All we can do is try our best.

When the high point of Mass occurs...when the bread and wine become the Body and Blood of Christ, recall that we are at Calvary once again. The crucifixion of Christ is made re-present to us. We have the opportunity to consume His precious Body and Blood. It is truly the most intimate moment we have with God on this earth.

Do not let this moment pass us by. It is an opportunity for mercy, offerings, and grace. As we approach Jesus' Body and Blood, ask for mercy for every sin we have ever committed, offer our greatest joy and our deepest sorrow along with all of our intentions; and ask for grace to persevere in this life.

Recall, that this is a Eucharistic meal. We should continue these prayers, along with prayers of gratitude and praise, after we receive Him. Just as the apostles spent time with Jesus at the Last Supper by speaking with Him as they shared that meal, so too are we called to fully partake in this meal at Mass. When someone serves us a meal we do not turn around and leave. Instead we enjoy it and share our gratitude for it. This is how we are to respond to our spiritual food.

It can be difficult to wrap our minds around Jesus' presence in the Eucharist. The appearance of bread and wine are tough to look past. Thankfully, God hears our cry for faith. If we struggle to believe in His real presence, pray frequently, "Lord I believe; help my unbelief!" Our God looks on us with such love and compassion. He will increase our eyes of faith.

Yet another way to deepen our understanding of Jesus' real presence in the Eucharist is through Eucharistic Adoration or time before the Tabernacle. Spending time in the presence of Jesus will undoubtedly transform our hearts. Grace is poured out on us just by being with Him. Anyone can pray in His presence. It is as simple as St. John Vianney proclaims, "I look at Him and He looks at me." We don't need to overcomplicate our prayer — we just need to be with Jesus.

As we celebrate this glorious solemnity of The Body and Blood of Christ, let us find time today to reflect on the Eucharist. Let us strive to intentionally honor and reverence Him at every Mass; strive to fully partake in each Eucharistic meal; and let us find time to visit our Savior in the Tabernacle. Let us pray frequently, "Lord I believe; help my unbelief!"

## YOUR STEWARDSHIP OF TREASURE

#### June 6, 2021

# 3 EASY STEPS TO KEEPING YOURSELF







DISTANCE



### What does Corpus Christi mean to us today?

As reflected on by Pope Benedict XVI, this celebration of the Body and Blood of Christ is a teaching moment; an opportunity to deepen our relationship with God and each other. This feast is a day to celebrate the Great Sacrament of the Holy Eucharist. Today the feast of Corpus Christi is a call to reflect on the many ways God uses all of us to come into holiness and see the Divine Grace of Love. It is through the physical elements of bread and wine, the presence of Jesus, that

we can journey with one another. "It does not only bring the liturgy to mind; it is a day on which heaven and earth work together," (Pope Benedict XVI); like the transformation of the seasons and the crops at harvest.

So, it should be clear to us all, that it grows out of the mystery we just celebrated, Easter and Pentecost. It is the Resurrection and the sending of the Holy Spirit and it should recall the feast of the Holy Trinity, which connects all three mysteries as one. We find God speaking to us in our relationship to him, and it is because *God is Love* that he can love and be loved in return. Then it is because of this Trinity that he can be "the grain of wheat that dies and the bread of eternal life." Corpus Christi thereby becoming, as Pope Benedict proposed, "an expression of Faith in God." Faith in the one God that loves us.

With that said, the theme of the feast of Corpus Christi is, Love. A love that is unconditional. St. Thomas Aquinas said, "love does not consume; it gives and in giving, receives."

And so, we celebrate the *most precious* Blood and Body of Jesus Christ, "Corpus Christi." A transformation in our lives to love and be loved, to be strengthened by his Body and Blood by going out of ourselves and giving life. Pope Francis calls us to "touch the flesh of Christ by caring for the needy." How welcoming are we to our neighbor and the needy? *Do I love like Jesus loves me?* 

A couple of weeks ago, our parish celebrated First Holy Communions with 30 young people receiving our Lord for the very first time. They all looked beautiful and nervous for the celebration. As I walked around congratulating them and asking, "are you ready?", I received 30 strong "Yes" that they were ready to receive the Body and Blood of Jesus. The beauty of their "yes," was the innocence in trusting that Jesus *was and is* present. Do you believe or has it become a routine?

It made me think back to my Communion and ask myself, 'do I believe in the real presence of the Body and Blood of Christ?' I do. I say "yes" with the same excitement and enthusiasm of my First Communion, and I believe that Jesus is present in the Holy Eucharist! A calling in my life to become more and more like Jesus.

"You are what you eat!" If you attended the First Communion celebration, in his homily to the young Communicants, Father Mike said, "you are what you eat, I love to eat candy and my favorite candy are Nerds." Did Father become what he likes to eat? No, but he *has* become what he eats daily, and every Sunday at Mass. That food is the Body and Blood of Jesus, one can see the reflection of Jesus. That is why each one of us is called to become what we eat! The living presence of Jesus in our life. The Eucharist is a sacrament of bread and wine which transforms into the Body and Blood of Jesus. The Eucharist is our assurance that Jesus is with us until the end.

As Jesus sat with his disciples and prepared to return to God our Father, he broke bread with them. As we hear it recited every Sunday, and today, I invite you to listen with your heart during the consecration. The words that Jesus pronounced as he held the bread, "this is my Body," he broke it and gave it to his disciples and in the same way took the cup and said, "this is my Blood," and gave it to his disciples. In saying this Jesus called them friends, the ones I eat with. The ones I break bread with, you have become part of my body, my friends.

Jesus gave them and us the command to do the same: Go and teach Go and forgive. Be the healing light to those in pain. Do for others as I have done for you! Love your enemies and wash each other's feet, be a servant. Last week we heard Jesus say, "Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching all that I have commanded you, "I am always with you until the end." The question is, are you becoming what you eat? "Corpus Christi"



-May Grace and Blessings Be With You Deacon Rolando www.thomasmore.satx.org Page 3

#### PRIEST PENSION FUND

This weekend all parishes in our Archdiocese will be conducting a 2nd Collection for the Priest Pension Fund. This fund supports the pension for priests who have reached retirement age. This year there are 69 priests receiving a pension. After faithfully serving many years in the Lord's vineyard, the Priest Pension Plan ensures that our semi and fully retired priests may have a dignified retirement. Please be generous in making a donation to support our Archdiocesan Priest Pension Plan.

St. Vincent de Paul is still in need of food item donations!

Food Items Needed Most
INSTANT MASHED POTATOES
CANNED FRUITS AND VEGETABLES
CANNED BROTHS
BEANS

RICE

TOILET PAPER AND MONETARY DONATIONS ALSO ACCEPTED.

Donations can be delivered to St. Vincent de Paul! Thank you for your generosity!

# SPRING CLEANUP IS RESCHEDULED DUE TO RAINY WEATHER!



Saturday June 26th 2021

8:30 am to 12:00pm

Contact: Fred Sanchez (210) 912-5931



# LIMPIEZA DE PRIMAVERA A SIDO REPROGRAMADA DEBIDO A LA LLUVIA!



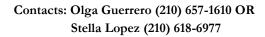
St. Thomas More English

Prayer Group



Grupo de Oración

Familias Compartiendo la Palabra



El Grupo de Oración se reúne los Viernes a las 7 pm. Contacte a: Maria Isabel Hernandez (210) 843-9756

# PUBLIC SQUARE ROSARY CRUSADE AMERICA NEEDS FATIMA The power of the Rosary is BEYOND DESCRIPTION!

Join us as we pray for: An End to Abortion, ArchBishop Fulton Scheen

The return of 'fallen-away' Catholics,

Traditional Marriage (1 Man + 1 Woman),

Our Country... that it may return to God....

and so much more!





We will meet for 6 consecutive months on the Saturday closest to Our Lady's appearances (She appeared on the 13th of each month; except in August... where she appeared on the 18th because the children were detained by local authorities).

Our next meeting will take place at <u>Noon on Saturday, June 12th</u>, at the grotto in front of the rectory... and will be hosted by our STM Knights of Columbus Council 7386.

Subsequent monthly prayer sessions will be hosted by the various parish ministries and will be advertised beforehand. (Ministry leaders should contact Mr. Barrera for scheduling information.)

Everyone is invited to participate!

Let's make this the biggest Crusade Event that STM has ever seen!!

For More Information: David Barrera @ (210) 793-0794

"Public prayer is far more powerful than private prayer to appease the anger of God and call down His mercy, and Holy Mother church, guided by the Holy Ghost, has always advocated public prayer in times of public tragedy and suffering."

St. Louis Marie de Montfort

St. Inomas More Catholic Church				
This Week at Our Parish		Mass Intentions		
Sunday,	June 6, 2021	Saturday	, June 5, 2021	
8:00 am	Camp Invention (Set Up) - Carolan Hall	8:00 am	†All Souls	by Kim Nguyen
Monday,	June 7, 2021		†Diego Mendez	by Oralia Esparza
8:00 am	Camp Invention STM - Carolan Hall		†Pat and Bill Carden	by Marcia Traylor
7:00 pm	Guadalupanos Board Mtg - Rectory Mtg Room	5:00 pm	†Christina Dominguez	by Dominguez Family
Tuesday,	June 8, 2021		†Abe Garcia	by Ruben and Estella Lee
8:00 am	Camp Invention STM - Carolan Hall	Sunday,	•	,
5:30 pm	Divine Mercy - Rectory Mtg Room	8:00 am	†All Souls	by Kim Nguyen
6:00 pm	Divine Mercy Devotion - Church	11	!	nily by Lorenzo & Diana Acosta
7:00 pm	Coro Alegria - Rectory Mtg Room	10:00 am †Medardo E. Morales & Evangelina G. Morales		
7:00 pm	Spanish Prayer Group Choir - Church		by the Morales and Brise	-
7:00 pm	Liturgy Committee - Carolan Hall			Hooi by Nancy Hooi Madison
	ay, June 9, 2021		†John Evancho	by Evancho Family
8:00 am	Camp Invention STM - Carolan Hall		†Ethan Leiber	by Briseno Family
10:30 am	English Prayer Grp Core Mtg - Rectory Mtg Room	12:00 pm		by Tom & Yolanda Harrington
6:00 pm	Pastoral Council - Rectory Mtg Room	12.00 p	†Deceased Grandparents	•
7:00pm	Guadalupano Choir Practice - Church	Monday	June 7, 2021	by i airiiiy
Thursday	•	8:00 am	†All Souls	by Catalina Reyes
8:00 am	Camp Invention STM - Carolan Hall	0.00 am	†Jose Luis Samaniego	by Family
7:00 pm 7:00 pm	CDA Board Mtg - Rectory Dining Room	Special In		mily by Lorenzo & Diana Acosta
Friday,	English Prayer Grp - Church  June 11, 2021	11 -	June 8, 2021	ining by Lorenzo & Diana Acosta
8:00 am	Camp Invention STM - Carolan Hall	8:00 am	†All Souls	by Kim Nauvan
7:00 pm	Coro Alegria - Rectory Mtg. Room	H	•	by Kim Nguyen
7.00 pm	La Hora Santa / Grupo de Oracion - <i>Church</i>	11 -		<b>imily</b> by Lorenzo & Diana Acosta
Saturday,			lay, June 9, 2021	Jallan, by Eddia Daysa
12:00 pm	Public Square Rosary - <i>Grotto at Rectory</i>	8:00 am	†Rosie Reyes & †Suzell W	-
4:00 pm	Reconciliation - Church			by Delia Garcia and Sandy
Sunday,	June 13, 2021		†All Souls	by Kim Nguyen
8:00 am	9:00 am CDA Blant Sala STM Blayground Area			
6:30 pm	Guadalupano Monthly Rosary - Church	II -	/, June 10, 2021	
		8:00 am	†All Souls	by Kim Nguyen
<u>Liturgical Roles</u>		All Ordained Clergy and Religious		
		Friday,	June 11, 2021	
Saturday, June 12, 2021		8:00 am	†All Souls	by Kim Nguyen
5:00 pm Altar Servers - (None)		Special Intention: Daniel Acosta & Family by Lorenzo & Diana Acosta		
1	Eucharistic Ministers -Dcn Tim	11 -	, June 12, 2021	
1	Lector - T. Garza	8:00 am	†All Souls	by Kim Nguyen
	June 13, 2021		†Pat and †Bill Carden	by Marcia Traylor
8:00 am Altar Servers - (None)		Special Intention: Daniel Acosta & Family by Lorenzo & Diana Acosta		
1	Eucharistic Ministers -Dcn Rolando	5:00 pm	†Adelina Richardson	by Family
1	Lector - P. Klar		†Ed Richardson	by Family
10:00 am Altar Servers - (None)			†Abe Garcia	by Delia Garcia and Sandy
	Eucharistic Ministers -Dcn Tim, E. Garcia, A. Garza		†Juan Urbano	by Family
Lector - O. Weich		Sunday,	June 13, 2021	
	Altar Servers - (None)	8:00 am	†All Souls	by Kim Nguyen
	Eucharistic Ministers -Dcn Rolando, R. Gomez,	10:00 am	Special Intention: Diana Ac	osta for a swift, complete
	A. Chavez		recovery	by Lorenzo Acosta
	Lector - M. Pina / M. Rivera			
<u>Lecturas de la Semana del 7 Junio - 13 Junio</u>			Readings for the week of	May 31 - June 6
Lunes: 2Cor 1:1-7: Sal 33:2-9: Mt 5:1-12		Monday: 2Cor 1:1-7: Ps 34:2-9: Mt 5:1-12		

**Lunes**: 2Cor 1:1-7; Sal 33:2-9; Mt 5:1-12 **Martes**: 2Cor 1:18-22 Sal 118:129-135; Mt 5:13-16

Miércoles: 2Cor 3:4-11; Sal 98:5-9; Mt 5:17-19

Jueves: 2Cor 3:15-4:1,3-6; Sal 84:9-14; Mt 5:20-26

Viernes: Os 11:1,3-4,8-9; Is 12:2-6, Ef 3:8-12,14-19;

Jn 19:31-37

**Sábado**: 2Cor 5:14-21; Sal 102:1-4,9-12; Lc 2:41-51 **Domingo**: Ez 17:22-24; Sal 91:2-3,13-16; 2Cor5:6-10;

Mc 4:26-34

**Monday**: 2Cor 1:1-7; Ps 34:2-9; Mt 5:1-12

**Tuesday**: 2Cor 1:18-22 Ps 119:129-135; Mt 5:13-16

Wednesday: 2Cor 3:4-11; Ps 99:5-9; Mt 5:17-19

**Thursday**: 2Cor 3:15-4:1,3-6; Ps 85:9-14; Mt 5:20-26

**Friday**: Hos 11:1,3-4,8-9; Is 12:2-6, Eph 3:8-12, 14-19;

Jn 19:31-37

**Saturday**: 2Cor 5:14-21; Ps 103:1-4,9-12; Lk 2:41-51

**Sunday**: Ez 17:22-24; Ps 92:2-3,13-16; 2Cor 5:6-10; Mk 4:26-34