

JUNE 14 , 2009

MOST HOLY
BODY
AND
BLOOD OF
CHRIST



“CORPUS
CHRISTI”
SUNDAY

ON THE FEAST OF CORPUS CHRISTI FROM A WORK BY SAINT THOMAS AQUINAS, PRIEST

Since it was the will of God’s only-begotten Son that men should share in his divinity, he assumed our nature in order that by becoming man he might make men gods. Moreover, when he took our flesh he dedicated the whole of its substance to our salvation. He offered his body to God the Father on the altar of the cross as a sacrifice for our reconciliation. He shed his blood for our ransom and purification, so that we might be redeemed from our wretched state of bondage and cleansed from all sin. But to ensure that the memory of so great a gift would abide with us for ever, he left his body as food and his blood as drink for the faithful to consume in the form of bread and wine.

O precious and wonderful banquet, that brings us salvation and contains all sweetness! Could anything be of more intrinsic value? Under the old law it was the flesh of calves and goats that was offered, but here Christ himself, the true God, is set before us as our food. What could be more wonderful than this? No other sacrament has greater healing power; through it sins are purged away, virtues are increased, and the soul is enriched with an abundance of every spiritual gift. It is offered in the Church for the living and the dead, so that what was instituted for the salvation of all may be for the benefit of all. Yet, in the end, no one can fully express the sweetness of this sacrament, in which spiritual delight is tasted at its very source, and in which we renew the memory of that surpassing love for us which Christ revealed in his passion.

It was to impress the vastness of the love more firmly upon the hearts of the faithful that our Lord instituted this sacrament at the Last Supper. As he was on the point of leaving the world to go to the Father, after celebrating the Passover with his disciples, he left it as a perpetual memorial of his passion. It was the fulfillment of ancient figures and the greatest of all his miracles, while for those who were to experience the sorrow of his departure, it was destined to be a unique and abiding consolation.

THE BODY & BLOOD OF CHRIST

June 14, 2009

MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK

Mon	7AM	Victims of Italy Earthquake
	9AM	Nancy Hoffman
Tue	7AM	Attorneys & Judges, <i>living</i>
	9AM	Mary McPartland
Wed	7AM	Emma & Bud Bradley
	9AM	Eva Previtali
Thu	7AM	Anita Guasch
	9AM	Paul Schwab, Jim Adams, & Stephen Fambrini
Fri	7AM	Special Intention
	9AM	Javier, <i>living</i>
Sat	7AM	Joe & Mary Reilly
	9AM	Mary King

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE SICK

Lorenzo Acciai, Ken Anderson, Marco Balistreri, MaryAnn Bellia, Bertha, Beverly, Joseph Calleja, Patricia Cane, Charles, Yondellan Coleman, Elizabeth Crowley, Bill & Vladia Cutler, Dick Degan, Doris Doty, Doug, Msgr. Bruce Dreier, Nanette Duffy, Ed, Luke Duval, Faith Gillis, Philip Hansen, Taro Hart, Rosemarie Hayes, Michelle Hufford, Joseph, Germaine Khohayting, Karla Kincade, Jan Lamphere, Frank Lucas, Manda Masse, Warren McGuire, Richard Mogas, M. Maroevich, Tony, Valerie Milroy, Marie Palleschi, Mark Piatti, Joe Popovich, Dr. August T. Rossano, Stephanie, Steve Schlesselmann, Paul Smith, Rose Tannlund, Tim, Elizabeth Ward, Sibeal Whitty, & Camilla

STEWARDSHIP – A WAY OF LIFE

Last weekend's collection	\$4,221.
Weekly goal	\$5,200.
Weekly average	\$4,604.

ARCHBISHOP'S ANNUAL APPEAL UPDATE

Assessed Goal:	\$65,200.
Received:	\$52,409.

Donor(s) *this week*: Ellen Cook

128 Families have given, out of 496 registered.

We are counting on you!

Please do your fair share
for our parish and the archdiocese.

Please respond to this annual appeal.

THIS WEEK IN OUR PARISH

Mon	"Life in Christ" – Parish Hall – 9:30am
Tues	Scripture Class – Parish Hall – 9:30am

ARCHDIOCESAN ORDINATIONS AND FIRST MASS OF FR. JOSEPH PREVITALI

This Saturday, June 20, Archbishop Niederauer will ordain three new priests for the Archdiocese of San Francisco. One of them, Joseph Previtali, whose parents, Dave & Marian, are active in our Confirmation Program, will celebrate the 5:00pm Mass here on that same day, after first hearing Confessions from 3:30 until 4:30pm.

"THE YEAR OF THE PRIEST"

Pope Benedict XVI has declared "The Year of the Priest" to begin on June 19, the 150th Anniversary of the death of St. John Vianney, the Patron Saint of Priests. We thank God for all the priests down through the ages who have brought the grace of the Sacraments to all of us, and we pray that, through the intercession of St. John Vianney and all the saints they may be strengthened and protected as they live out their vocation in this troubled world.

PRECIOUS BLOOD

On this solemnity we focus our attention on the Body and Blood of Christ. We listen to the story of the renewal of the old covenant, which Moses sealed by splashing the blood of animals on the altar of sacrifice, as well as on the people. Jesus, whose blood is the blood of the New Covenant, shed that precious blood on the cross, saving us from sin and promising us everlasting life. Blood is the life source that courses through our bodies. The precious Blood of Christ is the life source for our spirits. Today may we, like the psalmist, offer a sacrifice of *thanksgiving* to the Lord, whose Body and Blood strengthens us to bring the Good News to everyone we meet, who need to hear the gospel of life.

SVDP PANTRY NEEDS

Our St. Vincent de Paul Pantry needs dish soap, bar soap, jams & jellies, canned tuna, mayonnaise, mustard, ketchup, canned soups, coffee (small 1-lb size), spaghetti, cereal (hot and cold), canned fruit.

TREASURE FROM OUR TRADITION

The origins of today's solemnity lie in thirteenth century Belgium. In those days, people seldom received Holy Communion. A nun in a troubled convent, Juliana of Liege, devoted her life to stirring up love for the Eucharist, lobbying for a feast day to honor the Blessed Sacrament with Masses and processions.

Juliana may have been inspired by the Ascension Day processions in nearby Bruges. Crusaders brought a treasure home to Bruges from Constantinople in 1204: a reliquary said to contain a cloth from Joseph of Arimathea with which he had helped prepare the body of Jesus for burial. The stain on the cloth was said to be the holy blood itself, and so the people of Bruges built a great basilica to house the relic. Bruges became a great center of pilgrimage because of this relic, and the procession of the Holy Blood is still one of the greatest festivals in Belgium to this day. The bishop carries the relic through the narrow streets, and the people wear medieval costumes and act out scenes from the Bible.

HOW CAN I PROMOTE RESPECT FOR LIFE?

All Catholics are called to protect the dignity of life from conception to natural death. While voting for candidates who pledge to protect life is important, there are also options outside the voting booth.

ASSIST PREGNANCY SUPPORT CENTERS

Many centers offer counseling, material assistance, and even provide daycare. Volunteer your time and talents.

SPEAK UP

When you hear or read about a story in the news in which the value of life is demeaned, write a letter to the editor and to government leaders supporting life-affirming and non-violent solutions.

CONSIDER BECOMING A FOSTER PARENT

Many local social service agencies are overwhelmed by the number of children whose families cannot care for them. Contact your local social services department to learn what's necessary to take in a child who needs shelter.

VISIT LOCAL NURSING HOMES and offer your companionship to residents. Many older people feel forgotten and would welcome your visit.

CHOOSE LIFE! *“Just 22 days after conception a human embryo’s heart begins beating. The little heart will beat nearly 54 million times before he or she is born! By 6 weeks plus 2 days after conception the brain waves of an unborn child can be recorded by EEG. At just 10 weeks after conception nails and fingerprints begin to emerge in patterns that will uniquely identify a child throughout his or her entire life.”*

—The Endowment for Human Development, www.ehd.org

TWO BIG FEAST DAYS THIS WEEK

June 19: The feast of the **Sacred Heart of Jesus**. The image of Jesus with his heart exposed in unquenchable flame is a reminder of his intense and eternal love for us.

June 20: The Feast of the **Immaculate Heart of Mary**. In response to a request by Our Lady of Fatima, Pope Pius XII consecrated the world to Mary's gentle and devout Immaculate Heart in 1942, and initiated this feast in 1945.

A PRAYER FOR OUR MEN AND WOMEN IN MILITARY SERVICE

O Prince of Peace, we humbly ask Your protection for all our men and women in military service. Give them unflinching courage to defend with honor, dignity and devotion the rights of all who are imperiled by injustice and evil. Guard our churches, our homes, our schools, our hospitals, our factories, our buildings and all those within from harm and peril. Protect our land and its peoples from enemies within and without. Grant an early peace with victory founded upon justice. Instill in the hearts and minds of men and women everywhere a firm purpose to live forever in peace and good will toward all. Amen.

ALTAR SERVERS NEEDED!

St. Sebastian's needs new Altar Servers! Parents, please chat with your children and encourage them to apply. We'll train them and welcome them aboard. As young ones grow, our numbers diminish, so please phone Fr. Paul or Fr. Mark at 461-0704.



1260 on your AM dial
immaculate heart radio
sharing the heart of the Christian faith