

## **Happy Solemnity of the Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ (June 3, 2018)**

In 1263 a German priest, Peter of Prague, stopped at Bolsena, Italy, while on a pilgrimage to Rome. He is described as being a pious priest, but one who found it difficult to believe that Christ was actually present in the consecrated Host. While celebrating Holy Mass above the tomb of St. Christina (located in the church named for this martyr), he had barely spoken the words of Consecration when Blood started to seep from the consecrated Host and trickle over his hands onto the altar and the corporal. The priest was immediately confused.

At first he attempted to hide the Blood, but then he interrupted the Mass and asked to be taken to the neighboring city of Orvieto, the city where Pope Urban IV was then residing.

Soon after this event, Pope Urban IV and St. Thomas Aquinas inspected the Miraculous Host. This miracle helped convince the Pope to extend the Solemnity of *Corpus Christi* to the universal Church “so that this excellent and venerable Sacrament might become for all a memorial of the extraordinary love God has for us.”

When you and I receive Holy Communion, we receive, in a sacramental manner, the resurrected Body and Blood, Soul and Divinity of our risen Lord Jesus Christ! We receive the whole Christ—truly, really, and substantially. Jesus, the head of our Church, teaches us this fact through our pope in union with the bishops, to whom He gave authority.

All praise be to the Blessed Trinity for giving us the gifts of the sacraments, especially the Eucharist. Jesus was clear about His teaching. In **John 6:53** Jesus said, “Amen, amen, I say to you, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink His blood, you do not have life within you.” God tells us in **Matthew 26:26-27**: “While they were eating, Jesus took bread, said the blessing, broke it, and giving it to His disciples said, ‘Take and eat; this is My Body.’ Then He took a cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, ‘Drink from it, all of you, for this is My Blood of the covenant, which will be shed on behalf of many for the forgiveness of sins.’” Jesus did not say that it was a symbol of His Body and Blood. He said it *is* His Body and Blood. Jesus said it; we believe it.

Jesus backed up His words with miracles for those who doubt. There are hundreds of recorded Eucharistic miracles throughout the world that demonstrate that there is something special about the Eucharist. Some Hosts have turned into flesh and blood. Others have never decayed. See five miracles explained here with pictures: <https://churchpop.com/2015/06/28/5-extraordinary-eucharistic-miracles-with-pictures/>

There are many benefits or fruits of Holy Communion. Some are: Holy Communion increases our union with Christ; “wipes out” our venial sins and helps keep us from committing grave sins; renews, strengthens, and

deepens our incorporation into the Church, which we received at Baptism; and, commits us to the poor.

Jesus has overcome the power of sin, death, and the devil by His resurrection. He wants us to rise above these things also by the power of His grace. Let us abide in His love so that we can share it with others and, one day, all join together in an everlasting Kingdom that has only joy and love! The Eucharist raises us up!

### **Why Make A Spiritual Communion and How**

There are times that you may not be able to receive Jesus physically in Holy Communion. Perhaps you are not able to go to daily Mass. Also, out of humility you may not feel like you are ready to receive Communion at Mass. If you or I are in not in the state of grace (aware of un-confessed mortal sin; e.g., marriage not blessed in the Church, abortion, sexual activity outside of marriage and not open to life, skipping Mass, etc.), we should not receive Holy Communion. **1 Cor 11:27-29** states: “Therefore whoever eats the bread or drinks the cup of the Lord unworthily will have to answer for the body and blood of the Lord. A person should examine himself, and so eat the bread and drink the cup. For anyone who eats and drinks without discerning the body, eats and drinks judgment on himself.” However, we can always make a Spiritual Communion in any of these three situations. Here is a prayer from St. Alphonsus Liguori:

*My Jesus, I believe that You are present in the Most Holy Sacrament. I love You above all things, and I desire to receive You into my soul. Since I cannot receive You sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart. I embrace You as if You were already there, and unite myself wholly to You. Never permit me to be separated from You.*

### **The Sacred Heart of Jesus (Celebrated June 8)**

Devotion to the Sacred Heart, as we know it, began about the year 1672. On repeated occasions, Jesus appeared to Saint Margaret Mary Alacoque, a Visitation nun, in France, and during these apparitions He explained to her the devotion to His Sacred Heart as He wanted people to practice it. He asked to be honored in the symbol of His Heart of flesh; He asked for acts of reparation, for frequent Communion, Communion on the First Friday of the month, and the keeping of the Holy Hour.

When the Catholic Church approved the devotion to the Sacred Heart of Jesus, she did not base her action only on the visions of Saint Margaret Mary. The Church approved the devotion on its own merits. Jesus is at the same time God and Man. His Heart, too, is Divine—it is the Heart of God.

**[Mass will be at OLS this Friday, 8:30 a.m.]**

### **Why Do Catholics Have Relics?**

We as Catholic Christians prize relics of Christ and the saints. For example, I have a relic (size of a splinter) of

the cross on which Jesus died. Our churches have a relic of St. Anne, our patron saint of our Grand Lake church. At Our Lady of the Snow, we have a relic of St. Faustina in the daily Mass chapel, which has been named “The Chapel of Divine Mercy.”

What exactly is a relic? It is an item directly or indirectly associated with the events of Christ’s life or a saint’s life. We categorize relics into classes. A first-class relic is an item directly associated with the life of Christ (manger, cross, etc.) or the physical remains of a saint (bone, hair, etc.). A second-class relic is an item that a saint used (crucifix, book, etc.) or an item that he/she wore (shirt, glove, etc.). The chains that bound St. Peter are preserved in San Pietro in Vincoli, Rome; they are a second-class relic. A third-class relic is an object that has touched a first- or second-class relic. Many third-class relics are small pieces of cloth.

Why do Catholics like relics or use them? Sometimes we see God working miracles and exorcisms through them. God determines if He wants to give divine effects while using a relic. For example, a person may pray over another person who has cancer and then touch the relic of the cross of Christ to the forehead of that person. God may decide to heal the person with cancer as an effect of prayer and the use of the relic. Also, since relics remind us of the person they represent, we use them to intercede. Jesus said in Matthew 18:20: “For where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them.” Thus, we might hold a relic, and we and the saint go to Jesus together to intercede on someone’s behalf.

Where is the use of relics in the Bible? There are several places in the Bible that talk about relics. I will list four of them. First, let’s begin with John 9:1-7. Jesus chose to use mud and spittle to heal the blind man. Jesus is God and all-powerful. He did not need mud and spittle to cure the man. He chose to associate matter (mud and spittle) with His divine grace. Since the mud and spittle touched Jesus’ hands, they are considered first-class relics. Second, in Matthew 9:20-22, the woman is cured of a hemorrhage by touching the hem of Christ’s cloak, a first-class relic. Third, we see in 2 Kings 13:20-21 that the bones of Elisha the prophet, a first-class relic, brought a dead man to life. Here is what it says:

*Elisha died and was buried. At the time, bands of Moabites used to raid the land each year. Once some people were burying a man, when suddenly they spied such a raiding band. So they cast the dead man into the grave of Elisha, and everyone went off. But when the man came in contact with the bones of Elisha, he came back to life and rose to his feet.*

Thus, God chose to use His divine power, in association with the bones of Elisha, in order to work a miracle.

Finally, Acts 19:11-12, states:

*So extraordinary were the mighty deeds God accomplished at the hands of Paul that when face cloths or aprons that touched his skin were applied to*

*the sick, their diseases left them and the evil spirits came out of them.*

In sum, there are many places in the Bible where relics are mentioned.

We Catholics respect relics. We venerate them; we treat them as if they were a special picture of the person they symbolize. The greatest account of venerating a relic is that of the very body of Christ itself, after He was crucified. Joseph of Arimathea donated his own tomb (see Matthew 27:60). John 19:39 states that “Nicodemus, the one who had first come to him at night, also came bringing a mixture of myrrh and aloes weighing about one hundred pounds.” We also know from Matthew 28:1 that the women went to visit the tomb in a reverent manner. Also, there are numerous accounts of how early Christians venerated relics. In 156 A.D. we see the following account by the Smyrneans regarding the martyrdom of Polycarp:

*We took up his bones, which are more valuable than precious stones and finer than refined gold, and laid them in a suitable place, where the Lord will permit us to gather ourselves together, as we are able, in gladness and joy and to celebrate the birthday of his martyrdom.*

Finally, Saint Jerome (331-420) speaking about relics, said, “We do not worship, we do not adore, for fear that we should bow down to the creature rather than to the Creator, but we venerate the relics of the martyrs in order the better to adore Him whose martyrs they are” (*Ad Riparium*, i, P.L., XXII, 907).

How do we know if a relic is authentic? The answer is: We do our best to make sure they are. (I’m sure some relics are frauds.) Just as we evaluate whether Thomas Jefferson slept in a particular bed, we use the Church to evaluate whether a relic belongs to a particular saint. The Church does its best to approve of relics that have a reasonable probability of being authentic. [Note: during an exorcism, authentic relics really bother demons. The demons, using the voice of the demonized person, will demand that they be taken away; or, the relic will cause a burning sensation on the demonized person, when placed on him/her; or both. This is one way to see if a relic is authentic.] Even though the authenticity of a relic may be highly probable, there will always be skeptics.

Those who shy away from the use of relics (or even the sacraments or sacramentals of the Catholic Church) dislike the mixing of spirit and matter. They think that God’s grace should be separated from physical things. This attitude stems from the early heresies of Dualism, Marcionism, and Manichaeism. (Note: In the Incarnation of Christ, we see that Jesus, a spiritual being, took on human flesh.) In the sacraments, God effects grace through the use of material things such as water, wine, bread, oil, and the imposition of hands. Relics are not magic; they do not contain grace. God “graces” us as He wishes through their use.

**A Parent's Litany for the Return of Our Children to Practice the Catholic Faith**

Response: **have mercy on us and on our children.**

- +God the Father Almighty,
- +Jesus, Son of Father,
- +God the Holy Spirit,

Response: **save our children, O Lord.**

- +Jesus, in the Blessed Sacrament of the Altar,
- +Sacred Heart of Jesus,
- +Jesus, our Divine Mercy,
- +Jesus, the Good Shepherd,

Response: **pray for us and for our children.**

- +Mary, Mother of Jesus,
- +Our Lady of Siluva, whose tears touched the hearts of an entire village,
- +Sorrowful Mother, whose heart was pierced with anguish,
- +Our Lady of the Miraculous Medal, intercessor for children,
- +St. Joseph, patron saint of fathers and helper of families,
- +St. Francis de Sales, laborer for conversion of souls,
- +St. Theresa, with your little ways of prayer,
- +St. Jude, patron saint of difficult situations,
- +St. Gertrude, intercessor of poor souls,
- +St. Monica, mother of the prodigal Augustine,
- +St. Michael the Archangel, warrior against evil,
- +St. Anne, grandmother of Jesus,
- +St. Faustina, who told us of Divine Mercy,
- +St. Odilia, helper of those blind to the truth,
- +St. Anthony, finder of the lost,

Response: **touch Your children, O Lord.**

- +Through the tears of a mother,
- +Through the prayers of a father,
- +Through a grandparent's anguish,
- +Through Your promises, O God,

Let us pray. God our Father, we bring You ourselves and our family members. We are in need of the healing touch of Your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ. May the Holy Spirit fill us, and may Your angels and saints guide us down the path back to You. We ask this in the name of Jesus, in union with the Holy Spirit. Amen.

For more prayers and information, visit: [www.marianmantle.com](http://www.marianmantle.com); phone: 913-526-8977

**Church Celebrations Coming**

**June 15, Friday, St. Bernard:** Mass at 6 p.m. followed by potluck dinner.

**Safe Environment Class for Volunteers**

Saturday, June 9 at 10 a.m. at Our Lady of the Snow. We want to keep our kids safe. All volunteers working with children need to attend a Safe Environment class if they have not done so before. If this is you, contact Fr. Peter or the office.

**St. Anne Prayer Garden Garage Sale - Huge Success!**

Thank you to the many people who donated items, staffed the sale, and bought the many discounted treasures. We made more than \$9,500 that will be used to make our prayer garden beautiful. A special thank you to Steve and Jan Robar, who transported and repaired items, and organized and hosted the sale itself.

**Totus Tuus Vacation Bible School; June 17 – 22**

We need help! We need lots of people to help prepare snacks, check-in, assist the teachers, etc. Contact the office if you are interested.

Our Lady of the Snow. \$20 donation to offset the cost. Grades 1-6: Mon – Fri, 9 a.m. – 2:30 p.m.; grades 7-12: Sun – Thur, 7:30 – 9:30 p.m. (Be sure to pack a lunch and snacks for your children.)

Find registration forms on our website.

**Calendar of Events**

**-Jun 17-22 (Sun-Fri).** Totus Tuus Vacation Bible School

**-Jun 23 (Sat).** Mass resumes at StB; 5:30 p.m.

**-Jul 19-20 (Thu-Fri).** Sports-Bible Camp in Fraser

**Mass Collections, May 26 – 27**

St. Anne	\$ 1883
St. Bernard	1257
Our Lady of the Snow	1898
St. Peter	422
St. Ignatius	405
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 5865</b>

**Vocations Prayer Calendar**

*Please pray for our seminarians every day.*

**Sat**—John Croghan & Anthony Davis

**Sun**—Ryan Kent & John Stapleton

**Mon**—Peter Srsich & Patricio Chuquimarca

**Tue**—Justin Doerr & Juan Hernandez

**Wed**—Christopher Marbury & Christian Mast

**Thu**—Samuel Rendon & Cristian Rivera

**Fri**—Men and women applying for formation

**Mass Intentions and Schedule for StA, StB, and OLS**

**KEY:** StA = St. Anne; StB = St. Bernard;

OLS = Our Lady of the Snow

**Weekend Masses**

-Sat, Jun 2, StA, 5 p.m., People in our region & visitors

-Sun, Jun 3, StB, 7 a.m., Tim and Pat Pulliam

-Sun, Jun 3, OLS, 9:30 a.m., Victor and Jan Derks

**Weekday Masses**

-Mon, Jun 4, StA, 8:30 a.m., Nicolette Seabaugh

-Tue, Jun 5, OLS, 7:30 a.m., +Paul Robertson

-Wed, Jun 6, StB, 8:30 a.m., Nancy Kabance

-Thu, Jun 7, OLS, 8:30 a.m., +Sue Jeffrey

-Fri, Jun 8, OLS, 8:30 a.m., Joseph and Annette Burbach

**Mass Intentions and Schedule for StP and StI**

**KEY:** StI = St. Ignatius (Walden); StP = St. Peter

-Sun, Jun 3, StP, 10 a.m., People in our region & visitors

-Sun, Jun 3, StI, 1 p.m., Mark and Debbie Goulette