

STEWARDSHIP REFLECTION This Sunday we celebrate the Solemnity of the Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ. As stewards, the Holy Eucharist should be the very foundation that the rest of our lives are built upon. Yet how often do we fail to view the Holy Mass as the highlight of our week? Let us take a moment to reflect on how the Mass is so pivotal in our lives of stewardship. While the high point of the entire Mass is the consecration, where the lowly bread and wine become the very body, blood, soul and divinity of Christ, there are still other important moments that lead up to this climax. One such often overlooked moment is the time of Offertory. The Offertory is where we offer our gifts, the bread and wine, but also our time and talents, and essentially, our very selves, in order to be miraculously transformed by God. We may think that we cannot offer God anything spectacular, yet this is why the Offertory is such a powerful moment. The same way that God can transform simple bread into His very body, so too can he turn our small efforts of charity and stewardship into great graces for the Kingdom. We see this in the Gospel as the disciples offered Jesus just five loaves and two fish. However, it is through this offering that Jesus was able to miraculously feed thousands of people. The next time we attend Mass let us intentionally call to mind all of the time and talents we shared with others the previous week and those we anticipate sharing in the upcoming week. God will begin to transform these works into great miracles for the sake of the Gospel.

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Taken from excerpts from the Archdiocese of Toronto website.

VOCATION REFLECTION Jesus has given us His Body to eat and His Blood to drink so as to nourish us on our journey towards the Kingdom. May we be faithful to him on our journey as a married, single, ordained or consecrated person.

If God is calling you, to be a priest, religious or deacon, contact Fr. Matt McCarthy, Director of Vocations, Archdiocese of Toronto at 416-968-0997.

vocations@archtoronto.org

www.vocationstoronto.ca

****Important Information: Pilgrimage to France and Rome (October 14-24)****

Are you considering a life-changing pilgrimage to France and Rome? This incredible journey, taking place from October 14th to 24th, offers a unique opportunity for spiritual growth and exploration.

****Registration and Payment Deadline:****

To secure your place on this pilgrimage, your first payment must be received by July 7th. Currently, only two have signed up. A minimum of 25 participants is required for the pilgrimage to proceed.

****Spread the Word:****

We've already advertised this pilgrimage in other parishes and the Catholic Register, but your help in spreading the word would be greatly appreciated. Please share this information with anyone who might be interested in joining us.



Solemnity of the Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ

Thank you for bringing empathy to the table.

Covenant House, an agency you support through ShareLife, fosters a profound sense of belonging among at-risk children in the Youth in Transition program. Their community dinners create a welcoming space for shared experiences, made possible by your empathetic heart. "These gatherings are an opportunity for youth to learn more about each other and taste food from different cultures," says Fred Shayo-Mushi, Support Services Manager of Covenant House Toronto. "The dinners make everyone feel like they matter because of your love."

Thus far we have raised **\$9,440.40** toward our goal of **\$18,500.00**. Please give at the parish using a ShareLife envelope, online through our parish website, or at sharelife.org/donate.

The Solemnity of Corpus Christi: A Deeper Look

The Feast of Corpus Christi, also known as the Solemnity of the Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ, is a significant celebration in the Catholic Church that honors the real presence of Jesus Christ in the Eucharist. While the institution of the Eucharist occurred at the Last Supper, Corpus Christi provides a distinct opportunity for public devotion and adoration of the Blessed Sacrament.

Meaning and Importance of Corpus Christi

Corpus Christi is a joyful celebration of Christ's presence in the Eucharist. Unlike Holy Thursday, which commemorates the institution of the Eucharist in a solemn setting leading to Good Friday, Corpus Christi is a feast of thanksgiving and adoration. It emphasizes the sacramental and sacrificial reality of Christ's presence and affirms the Church's teaching on transubstantiation, the belief that the bread and wine truly become the Body and Blood of Christ.

Historical Origins

The feast was inspired by St. Juliana of Liège, a 13th-century Norbertine religious, who had a vision of a dark spot on the moon, symbolizing the absence of a feast dedicated solely to the Eucharist.

Encouraged by theologians, she advocated for the establishment of such a feast. In 1246, Bishop Robert de Torote of Liège ordered the celebration of Corpus Christi in his diocese. However, it wasn't until 1264 that Pope Urban IV extended the feast to the universal Church, issuing a papal decree that set its observance on the Thursday following Trinity Sunday.

Traditional Celebrations

Historically, Corpus Christi was marked by eucharistic processions, where the Sacred Host was carried through towns, accompanied by hymns and litanies. These processions were grand public displays of faith, with sovereigns, princes, and guild members participating. Over time, the practice declined, though some parishes still hold brief processions around the church to honor the Blessed Sacrament.

The Eucharist: The Greatest of the Seven Sacraments

Among the seven sacraments, the Eucharist holds a unique and central place in Catholic theology. It is the source and summit of Christian life, as it is the true presence of Christ—Body, Blood, Soul, and Divinity. The Eucharist is not merely a symbol but a sacramental reality, where Christ offers Himself anew in every Mass. It is the New Covenant Passover sacrifice, fulfilling the Old Testament foreshadowing of the Lamb of God.

Modern Observance

While large-scale processions have become less common, Corpus Christi remains a holy day of obligation in many countries. In 2025, the feast falls on Thursday, June 19, though in many dioceses, it is transferred to Sunday, June 22, to allow greater participation.

Since Fr. Roy's farewell reception coincides with Corpus Christi, you might consider attending the processions at St. Cecilia's Church or St. Michael's Cathedral to partake in this beautiful tradition.

***** The morning Masses on June 25th, 26th 27th are being canceled for this week ONLY.**

Moving forward, as of Monday, June 30th, the Monday morning Mass will be canceled. ***