

Embrace God's Presence

The Story of the Eucharist:

1. What was one thing from the video that you heard for the first time or that was an “aha” moment for you?
2. What are some of the connections between Passover and the Eucharist?
3. In the celebration of the Mass, how do we participate in offering the perfect sacrifice of Christ?
4. In what ways is the Eucharist the fruit of the Tree of Life?
5. What implications does this have for your own life?

“The Eucharist is the memorial of Christ’s Passover, the making present and the sacramental offering of his unique sacrifice, in the liturgy of the Church which is his Body” (CCC 1362).

When Jesus instructs his Apostles to celebrate the Eucharist “in remembrance of me” (Luke 22:19), He is telling them to celebrate a memorial (*anamnesis* in Greek), which has a very specific meaning for the Jews.

In Scripture, a memorial does not merely call to mind what God has done in the past, but in proclaiming the mighty works of God the memorial makes them present again. For this reason the Passover memorial is observed not just to remember what God did for one generation of Israelites, but to acknowledge and acclaim that his salvation is for the current generation as well.

Every time the Mass is celebrated, it really and truly makes present Jesus’s sacrifice at Calvary. The once-for-all sacrifice of Jesus on the Cross is made present to us again, so that we may participate in it and be transformed and saved by it. With the whole Church, each of us is united to Christ in his one sacrifice so that we, too, may make a perfect offering to the Father.

Digging Deeper - pg.. 21

Jesus instituted the Eucharist because He wanted to remain with us until the end of time. Jesus took the bread, said the blessing, broke it, and gave it to them, saying, “This is my body, which will be given for you; do this in memory of me.”

Three Key Words we may miss – Do – This – Memory.

- Jesus is really saying to the Apostles, Do [Take, Bless, Break, and Give] –
- This - My Body [Make Me Present in the Eucharist at every Mass].
- Memory: The Greek word for Memory, Anamnesis, means to bring the past into the present and the present into the past.
- Jesus gives His total self - His Body, Blood, Soul and Divinity to us!

Digging Deeper - pg.. 21

“The Eucharist is the miracle of miracles. Time and space do not exist for the Lord, and at the moment of the Consecration, we all are taken to the foot of Calvary at the instant of the Crucifixion of Jesus Christ.”

Our eyes cannot see, but we all are there at the very moment when Jesus is being crucified.

However, keep in mind time does not exist in eternity; it's all one big “Now”. There is no beginning - there is no end. All Now!

At the Crucifixion, Jesus saw you from the cross - He saw the goodness of your heart, your love, your devotion, and all your efforts.

And this is the really big part - you gave Him comfort. Yes, My Dear Friends, Jesus saw you from the cross just as He sees you now.

So Want Him, Welcome Him, Hail Him and allow Jesus to touch you each week - right here at Mass!

7 Secrets of the Eucharist:

Secret # 3 – “There Is Only One Mass”

[The Paschal Mystery is] the unique event of history which does not pass away: Jesus dies, is buried, rises from the dead, and is seated at the right hand of the Father "once for all." ...

The Paschal mystery of Christ, by contrast, cannot remain only in the past, because by his death he destroyed death, and all that Christ is - all that he did and suffered for all men - participates in the divine eternity, and so transcends all times while being made present in them all. The event of the Cross and Resurrection abides and draws everything toward life. CCC 1085

Christian liturgy not only recalls the events that saved us but actualizes them, makes them present. The Paschal mystery of Christ is celebrated, not repeated. CCC1104

1105 The Epiclesis ("invocation upon") is the intercession in which the priest begs the Father to send the Holy Spirit, the Sanctifier, so that the offerings may become the body and blood of Christ and that the faithful by receiving them, may themselves become a living offering to God.

1106 Together with the anamnesis, the epiclesis is at the heart of each sacramental celebration, most especially of the Eucharist:

7 Secrets of the Eucharist:

Secret # 3 – “There Is Only One Mass”

You ask how the bread becomes the Body of Christ, and the wine . . . the Blood of Christ

I shall tell you: the Holy Spirit comes upon them and accomplishes what surpasses every word and thought. . . .

It is Christ himself, the eternal high priest of the New Covenant who, acting through the ministry of the priests, offers the Eucharistic sacrifice. And it is the same Christ, really present under the species of bread and wine, who is the offering of the Eucharistic sacrifice. CCC 1410

In reality there is only one Mass, one eternal liturgy of the Eucharist, and it's taking place in heaven all the time.

7 Secrets of the Eucharist:

Secret # 3 – “There Is Only One Mass”

Christ is inviting us to enter in, beyond the veil, so that He can lift us up, out of time and into the Eternal Now, into the very sanctuary of heaven, where He leads us, as the One Great High Priest, offering His once-for-all sacrifice to the Father in the heavenly court, surrounded by Mary and all the saints, and by the angels, who sing His praise in endless adoration. The Mass is heaven on earth.

Through his ordination, the priest is not merely authorized to represent Christ, but rather is uniquely and Sacramentally identified with Him. The priest offers the Holy Sacrifice *“in persona Christi”*; this means more than offering *“in the name of”* or *“in place of Christ.”* In celebrating the Eucharist, the priest is not saying his own individual Mass but, through this complete and personal identification with Christ, is able to re-present the one Eternal Mass.

Discover Amazing truths about the Eucharist

7 Secrets of the Eucharist:

Secret #4 – The Eucharist Is Not Just One Miracle

“At the words of consecration, there occurs a course of resplendent miracles, each more marvelous than a world’s creation out of nothing. “~ Fr. Frederick Faber

All these miracles, together with perhaps many more that we don't even know about, take place instantly and simultaneously.

- At the words of a mere creature, the bread and wine cease to exist, but all their scientific properties remain;**
- Even the tiniest particle of what our senses still perceive as bread and wine is now Christ;**
- Christ's presence is not symbolic or partial, but real and complete: He is present body, blood, soul, and divinity;**
- Christ is truly present just as He is in heaven, alive and glorious;**
- Christ does not leave heaven. His existence in heaven is not multiplied, but made present — not only in one place — but in every place where Mass is being celebrated;**

Discover Amazing truths about the Eucharist

7 Secrets of the Eucharist:

Secret #4 – The Eucharist Is Not Just One Miracle {cont'd}

All these miracles, together with perhaps many more that we don't even know about, take place instantly and simultaneously.

- Only Christ is present sacramentally under the appearances of bread and wine, but He is not alone. The Father and the Holy Spirit and all of heaven are present with Him;
- During each celebration of the Mass, we are lifted out of time and into eternity to participate with the angels and saints in the one divine liturgy that is being continually celebrated in heaven as Christ offers His once-for-all sacrifice to the Father;
- The priest is united to the Eucharist in such a unique and exceptional way that he receives a "specific sacramental identification" with Christ, which thus enables him to offer the Holy Sacrifice in the person of Christ;
- Through the Eucharistic sacrifice, the "entire created universe is united."



COMMIT— ENCOUNTERING GOD’S PRESENCE pg. 26

Take-home activity to strengthen your understanding of this lesson.

- Why do you receive the Eucharist? What do you hope for or expect this sacrament to accomplish in you?
- Consider the fruits of the Eucharist, listed in the Digging Deeper section. With which fruit(s) are you most familiar? Which one do you feel you need the most at this time in your life?

Fruits Of The Eucharist (CCC 1391–1397)

What does the Eucharist do for us?

1. Draws us closer to Christ. It is called “communion” because it brings us into an intimate union with our Lord.
2. Nourishes and replenishes the life of grace we received in Baptism, just as regular food nourishes our physical life.
3. Cleanses us from past sins (Venial) and helps us to avoid sin in the future.
4. Strengthens us in love.
5. Unites us more closely to the Church, the Body of Christ.
6. Helps us to see Christ in the poor and to care for them.

Spend some time in prayer, asking our Lord especially for this fruit the next time you receive the Eucharist.

Thoughts or Questions?

Key Points:

- The Eucharist is prefigured in the bread and wine offered by Melchizedek, in the Passover (it is the new Passover), and in the Manna in the wilderness.
- Jesus prepares His disciples for the Eucharist by changing water into wine and multiplying loaves of bread.
- Jesus teaches explicitly about the Eucharist in John 6 and lets many followers leave because they don't like this teaching.
- **The Death and Resurrection of Jesus begin a new Creation.**
- **The Cross is the new Tree of Life, and the Eucharist is its fruit.**
- **The fruit of the Tree of Life opens our eyes to behold God and gives us eternal life.**
- **The Eucharist is the memorial of Jesus's Passion, Death, Resurrection, and Ascension.**



Discover the Riches of God's Presence

Closing Prayer – pg. 17

O saving Victim, opening wide.
The gate of heaven to man below:
Our foes press on from every side;
Thine aid supply, Thy strength bestow.

To Thy great Name be endless praise,
immortal Godhead, One in Three!
O grant us endless length of days
In our true native land with Thee.
Amen.

O salutaris Hostia,
Quae caeli pandis ostium:
Bella premunt hostilia,
Da robur, fer auxilium.

Uni trinoque Domino
Sit sempiterna gloria,
Qui vitam sine termino
Nobis donet in patria.
Amen

[Click to Play Song](#)