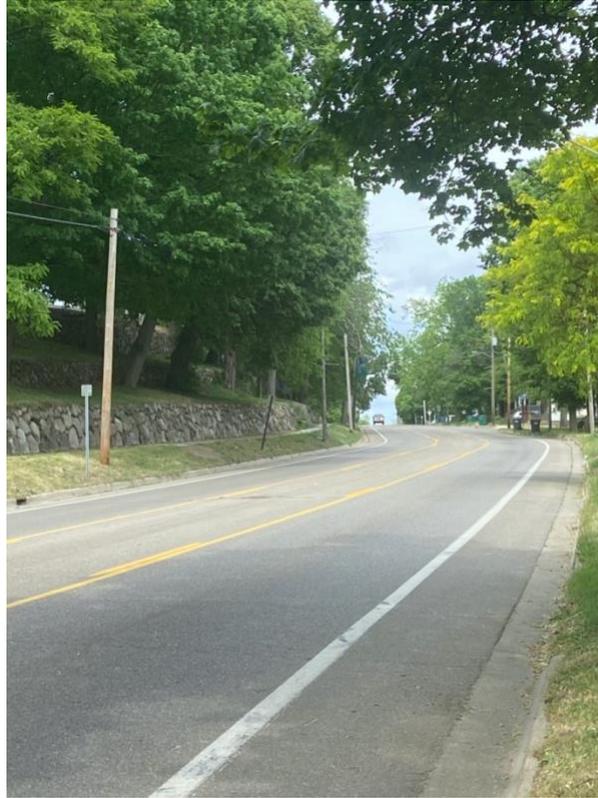


**Sanctissimi Corporis Christi**  
[1 Corinthians 11:23-29](#); [John 6: 56-59](#)

**Solemnity of the Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ**

Exodus 24:3-8; Psalm 16:12-13, 15-16, 17-18; Hebrews 9:11-15; Mark 14:12-16, 22-26

<https://bible.usccb.org/bible/readings/060621.cfm>



The picture is of Roosevelt Hill, the center of the Eastside Neighborhood, our parish. It is a beautiful tree-lined neighborhood that was built at the turn of the previous century by Polish immigrants who came to labor in our paper plants. In the early 20<sup>th</sup> Century, the paper plants numbered in the dozens. In the early 21<sup>st</sup> Century, there is only one.

The neighborhood has experienced some of the challenges of poverty, unemployment, disorder, family instability and food insecurity. The neighborhood saw boarded store fronts.

But over the past dozen or so years, the neighborhood has found a resurgence with no little credit due to those who hung in with the neighborhood during the tough times. Among them are the Bilal Islamic Center who established their mosque in the middle of crack alley.

Also to be honored:

- Eastside Neighborhood Association which provides grassroots leadership.

- The Greater Open Door C.O.G.I.C who provided food service and literacy training so that parents could better support their children's learning.
- Sunnyside Methodist Church with its food pantry, free store and neighborhood garden.
- The families of Peace House (in the tradition of St. Dorothy Day's Worker Houses) who provide tutoring and activities for neighborhood youth.

Our parish joins this august group in outreach and by providing our grounds and facilities to residents as a virtual neighborhood center. We provide support to neighbors who find themselves in critical need like for evictions, energy shutoffs and sudden funeral expenses. Our parish is committed to be a part of our community, not apart from.

This could start to sound like a secular community development program, but did you notice the thread of faith-based organizations? Even the civil neighborhood association begins their board meetings with prayer.

It is all about loving God and neighbor. This is not like having to love two things like I love Cornish pasties and chocolate malts. The love of neighbor is part of loving God. The love of God would be hollow without loving one's neighbor.

Our parish's service and ministry is to be the Body of Christ to our neighbor and in particular to our neighbors in our Eastside parish. This is not without concern for our neighbors in our city, country or even foreign missions. But other parishes are not the ones called to serve our Eastsiders. We are.

We are called to be the Body of Christ. We are to be Christ present to the world.



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We are able to do so, because we join ourselves to Christ in the Sacraments. We invite Christ to abide in us through the power of the Holy Spirit. We understand Jesus to be truly present, body and blood, soul and divinity, in the host consecrated in our sacrifice of the holy Mass. We commune with God and each other in the reception of that Blessed Sacrament.

Our communal worship animates our sacrificial love for each other and for the stranger. Our devotions such as adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, dispose us to act as Christ for the other. We pray in adoration of Jesus as seen present through the window of the monstrance.

We do so with great celebration every year on the Solemnity of Corpus Christi. In years past, the solemnity was celebrated on the Thursday after Trinity Sunday or today in the US, the Sunday after Trinity Sunday. The Traditional Latin Mass community still prays with the traditional calendar. In honoring the traditional and contemporary, I have listed above the readings for both Corpus Christi Thursday and Corpus Christi Sunday. I encourage you to read the Scripture for both the celebrations. They speak of the mystery and reality of the Paschal Sacrifice.

Across the world, on Corpus Christi, Catholics celebrate with an enthusiasm that cannot be contained by church walls. They take the true presence of Jesus as seen enshrined in the monstrance to the streets.

There's such joy in our savior who promised he would be with us always. What love is expressed for God and each other through city after city, neighborhood after neighborhood.

Please click [here](#) for a look into some Corpus Christi processions throughout the world.



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HK3BKPZih4I>

This Sunday at my parish, we will conclude our Masses with a eucharistic procession into our neighborhood. We will go around our residential block and return to our church. It will be done with great joy and singing. We will be escorted by our local Department of Public Safety for the safety of we pedestrians. May the cruiser's overhead lights add to our celebration.

Can you begin to guess where I hope to go with this?

Look at the top picture of our Eastside Main Street. Imagine cruisers shutting down the whole street from beginning to end. Imagine people from curb to curb following the eucharistic procession. Imagine onlookers on the terraces of Roosevelt Hill cheering as they pass by. Imagine the neighborhood gathering afterwards at the local park.

What pieces would need to be in place before such an event could happen? Would a parish need to be part of its neighborhood? Would the parish need to have a reputation that they have the welfare of their neighbors at heart? Would that parish's loving outreach inspire others to inquire about this savior whom the parish claims to be true God and true Man? Could there be such a thing as living more fully and the hope of ever-lasting life? When we testify, will they listen?

I don't know if I will ever see the Eastside Main Street procession in this lifetime. In hopes of paradise, maybe I'll be granted a seat on the Heavenly curb lawn to witness it.

I will, however, look forward with great joy to serving with my fellow parishioners in helping to grow such a community.

Pick up your cross and follow. ✠