



# St. Mary's Catholic Church



## 6<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

He said to him, "See that you tell no one anything, but go, show yourself to the priest and offer for your cleansing what Moses prescribed; that will be proof for them." The man went away and began to publicize the whole matter. He spread the report abroad so that it was impossible for Jesus to enter a town openly. - Mk 1:44-45b

Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001, 1998, 1970 CCD.

©LPI

P.O. Box 70  
Malta, MT 59538  
[office@SaintMarysMalta.org](mailto:office@SaintMarysMalta.org)

February 14, 2021

Fr. Felix: (406) 946-2195  
Office: (406) 654-1311  
[www.SaintMarysMalta.org](http://www.SaintMarysMalta.org)  
[Fr.felixnayak@yahoo.in](mailto:Fr.felixnayak@yahoo.in)  
Fr. Felix Nayak- Pastor

## Mass Schedule and Intentions

**2/15: Malta - To Be Announced**

**2/16: Malta - 5:30 PM:** Repose of Jack Lind <sup>r/</sup><sub>b</sub> Knights of Columbus

**2/17: Malta - 6:00 PM:** The Children. <sup>r/</sup><sub>b</sub> Lana Fortin

**2/18: Malta - 8:30 AM:** Special Intentions <sup>r/</sup><sub>b</sub> Lana Fortin

**2/19: Malta - 8:30 AM:** Mr. & Mrs. Bill Marks <sup>r/</sup><sub>b</sub> Helen DePuydt

**2/20: Malta - 4:00 PM:** Repose of Caroline Perraut <sup>r/</sup><sub>b</sub> Helen DePuydt

**2/21: Saco - 8:30 AM:** Repose Mr. & Mrs. Gay LaFond <sup>r/</sup><sub>b</sub> Darlene & Bruce Cummings

**Malta - 10:30 AM:** For all Parishioners;

**Dodson—12:30 PM:** Mr. & Mrs. Newt Cummings <sup>r/</sup><sub>b</sub> Darlene & Bruce Cummings

## Confession Schedule

Fr. Felix will be in the Confessional at St. Mary's Church **Friday's 9:00-10:00, Saturday from 11:00 A.M.—Noon;** and by appointment.

## Weekly Eucharistic Adoration

**Every Friday from 9 to 10 AM** after Daily Mass.



**Contact Fr. Felix for Home Visits, Distribution of the Sacraments, Home Blessings and Counseling of any type.**



Knights of Columbus  
Council 2124

Parish Council of Catholic  
Women

Meets **First Tuesday** of the month

Meets **Second Sunday** of the month

## Daily Scripture Readings

**2/14: 6th Sunday in Ordinary Time; World Marriage Day; Valentine's Day;** Leviticus 13:1-2, 44-46; Psalms 32:1-2, 5, 11; 1 Cor 10:31—11:1; Mark 1:40-45

**2/15: Presidents' Day;** Genesis 4:1-15, 25; Psalms 50:1, 8, 16-17, 20-21; Mark 8:11-13

**2/16: Tuesday in the 6th week of Ordinary Time;** Genesis 6:5-8; 7:1-5, 10; Psalms 29:1--4, 9-10; Mark 8:14-21

**2/17: Ash Wednesday;** John 12:12-18; Psalms 51:3-6, 12-14, 17; 2 Corinthians 5:20—6:2 ; Matthew 6:1-6, 16-18

**2/18: Thursday in Lent;** Deuteronomy 30:15-20; Psalms 1:1-4, 6; Psalm 40:5; Luke 9:22-25

**2/19: Friday in Lent;** Isaiah 58:1-9; Psalms 51:3-6, 18-19; Matthew 9:14-15

**2/20: Saturday in Lent;** Isaiah 58:9-14; Psalms 86:1-6; Luke 5:27-32

**2/21: 1st Sunday of Lent;** Genesis 9:8-15; Psalms 25:4-9; 1 Peter 3:18-22; Mark 1:12-15

### MASS TIMES

**Saturday Evening - 4:00 p.m.**

**Sunday—Saco - 8:30 a.m.**

**Malta - 10:30 a.m.**

**Dodson - 12:30 p.m.**

### Act of Spiritual Communion

My Jesus, I believe that You are really present in the Most Holy Sacrament.

I love You above all things, and I desire to possess You within my soul.

Since I cannot now receive You sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart. I embrace You as being already there and unite myself wholly to You. Never permit me to be separated from You. Amen.

## New to the Parish?

Welcome! We're glad you will be joining us. If you would like to register with the parish, please fill out this form and drop it in the collection basket. You may bring it by the parish office or send it to us.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone number: \_\_\_\_\_

Email address: \_\_\_\_\_

You may also use this form for a change of address. Thanks!

## Sacraments

**Confessions:** See page 2 of this week's bulletin for schedule or by appointment.

**Anointing of the Sick:** Please contact Fr. Felix as soon as possible for anointing.

**Baptism:** Normally celebrated at weekend Masses. Parental sessions are required.

**Marriages:** Six month couple preparation period required. Please meet with Fr. Felix before scheduling marriage date.

## Please Pray For

Lary Poulton, Sarine Venerble, Dallas Green, Missy Boos, Corrine Hould, Ann Clouse, Chayten Pippin, Jim Niebur, Hi-Line Retirement Center, Terry Idler, Marshal Kline, Paul LaBrie, Jacob LaBrie, and those from our area serving in the military.

For the repose of the souls of Dale Bruckner, David Broadbrooks, Jack Lind, the Poor Souls in Purgatory, and comfort and peace for their families.

Anyone who needs to have prayers said for someone can call Jean Niebur at 654-2822 or Dianne Salsbery 654-4675. Names will be listed in the bulletin for one month unless specified.

# Everyday Stewardship

## The Unfailing Goodness of God

I have always wondered why Jesus told the cleansed leper not to publicize how he had been healed by the Son of God. It's not that I can't understand why Jesus would want to keep the matter quiet — after all, he knew that as soon as people heard, he would be mobbed with requests for healings, and his movements restricted.

What gets me is the fact that Jesus simply must have realized the leper would not listen to him. Why give someone a command you know they will ignore? It's a complicated question, and when I reflect on it, I can't help but connect it to another equally complicated question: why does God, all-good and all-knowing, allow bad things to happen?

Yes, God is all-good and all-knowing. So when He gives us free will, He knows what we will do with it. However, He is also all-powerful. He can and will bring good from any situation, any tragedy, or even any instance

where someone ignores Him.

Was it a sin for this leper to do other than what Jesus had said? That's a heavy question for a Sunday morning! But it's plain to see that, even though this man ignored Jesus' command, God still used his actions. How many were brought to Christ because of the news spread by this leper!

As someone trying to live out a stewardship way of life, what is God requesting of you right now?

Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS

**Thank you for all your prayers and financial support! Although we're not "passing the basket", we still need your generous donations. You can drop off your donations at the baskets in the front of the church, mail them to Box 70, Malta, MT 59538.**

**\*There is no longer online giving. Direct deposits from your account into your parishes account is available at Bank of Malta and FSB . Please contact Mariah or Brenda for routing numbers\* 301-0936, 654-1311**

## Pope Francis' Intention

### For a Life of Prayer

We pray that our personal relationship with Jesus Christ be nourished by the Word of God and a life of prayer.

## Fr. Felix

### VI Sunday (B): LEV 13: 1-2, 44-46; ICOR 10:31-11:1; MK 1: 40-45

The theme of today's liturgy is the need for social acceptance even when people are different from us. It also tells us that purity or holiness of soul comes from God cleansing our lives.

Today's first reading gives us the background of the sad state of lepers in the first-century Palestinian society. The Book of Leviticus contains laws that taught the Israelites that they should always keep themselves in a state of legal purity or external sanctity, as a sign of their intimate union with the Lord. It was the duty of the priests to determine whether a man was infected with leprosy. Once the priest had examined a patient and declared him to be a leper, the afflicted person had to live in isolation, away from the dwelling-places of healthy people, in order to prevent the spread of the disease. In the same way, if the afflicted leper was healed, he needed to obtain a certificate from the priest before he could return among the dwelling-places of healthy people.

As we heard in the second reading, St. Paul worked hard to teach the young Corinthian Christian community to find the truth that would separate and protect them from the different religious beliefs and pagan rituals practiced by their pagan neighbors. He called the Corinthians at that time and calls each one of us today, to follow our own conscience carefully, without condemning others or trying to change their behavior. "I try to please all in any way I can by seeking not my own advantage." We, too, must follow St. Paul's and Jesus' example, to respond with sensitivity toward others who are different

from us, rather than by passing judgment on them.

Today's Gospel passage describes how Jesus healed a leper, liberating him both from the disease of leprosy and from the unjust and inhuman social isolation and ostracism. A background study reveals that Jesus was angered by the social and religious conditions of the day. 1) In Jesus' day, a leper had no right either to medical care or to other kinds of help from the community. In addition, the Book of Leviticus 13:1-2, 44-46 demanded that lepers wore the shabby clothes and uncombed, uncut hair of mourners. When meeting any healthy person, a leper had to cover his mouth with one hand and shout out a warning of his/her own "unclean" condition. Lepers were forced to live in leprosy colonies or in caves outside the city. Thus, it was no wonder that Jesus was angry about conventions that forced the leper to live like an animal, without rights or privileges. 2) In addition, Jesus would have been angered by the blasphemous religious explanation of the day that all leprosy was God's punishment for grave sins. He would have been particularly angry at the way lepers were treated as cursed creatures by the Jewish religion and how it sanctioned such inhuman treatment for lepers – not only considering them to be physically hateful but also sinners. Jesus might well have been revolted by the whole notion that lepers were sinners beyond God's embrace. That might be precisely why He healed the leper by "stretching out his hands, touching" the legally untouchable. By instructing the healed leper to go and show himself to the priest, Jesus may have been challenging the religious

authorities to see that God's healing grace is available to anyone who asks.

However, according to some Fathers of the Church, one reason Jesus promptly responded to the leper's cry, ignoring the Mosaic Law is, to identify himself with the man's condition of suffering, rejection, isolation etc. Just as he stretched out his hand to the leper and touched him and made him whole, Jesus stretched out his hands on the cross to make us whole.

Thus, in today's Gospel incident, Jesus challenges us to accept others unconditionally as

our own brothers and sisters. Jesus reaches out to touch each of us in this very Eucharistic celebration, making us whole and restoring our relationship with him and with one another. He then grants us a share in his Divine life through Holy Communion.

Let us pray for the grace that we trust in the mercy and forgiveness of God and thereby break the walls that separate us from others and build bridges of loving relationship, Amen.

To All:

Governor Gianforte has reversed Governor Bullock's mandate to wear masks which will begin on Friday, i.e., tomorrow. The wearing of masks at Catholic parishes in the Diocese of Great Falls-Billings, however, will continue to be required until such a time that a sufficient number of people have been vaccinated and cases of Covid 19 has diminished.

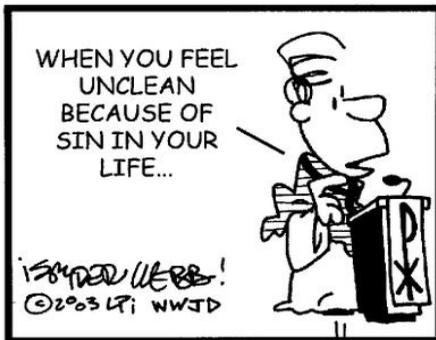
In Christ,

+ BMW

**NOTICE: It is asked that the doors to the basement remain closed and the two swinging doors at the back of the church remain closed, except during Mass. The reasoning for this is to keep the heat in the basement and not have the heat coming up into the church.**

**Thank you**

6TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME



# Gospel Meditation

The Church, as a voice of the Gospel, proclaims the sacredness of all human life. Everyone created by God is fashioned in God's image and has Divine DNA at the center of their soul. God never leaves what God creates but always remains intimately bound to what he has given form. Everyone has a place and because they have received the gift of Divine Blessing, nobody deserves to feel inferior, unworthy, unwanted, unclean or marginalized. Even the most broken of souls has a place. We, the Body of Christ, have the privilege and responsibility to give voice to the voiceless. The cries of the little one in his or her mother's womb are just as sacred as the cries of one who is homeless and hungry. The migrant deserves our attention as much as the forgotten elderly and even the prisoner, with a heart hardened by anger and resentment, deserves respect and dignity.

The Gospel of Life is often hard to swallow, and we would rather keep those we consider unclean, different or unfixable in a place by themselves. It is hard to see them with us, but they deserve to be. There is far too much violence in this world and the result of that violence is the assault on human life. Many are forced to leave the place they call home in search of safer ground, finding few if any along the way who will help them. How different today's Gospel story would be if Jesus gave in to what was politically correct at that

time. The leper would have been turned away and a soul, already beaten down by disease and fear, would have experienced an even deeper wound. Jesus wouldn't have captured much attention from anyone, nor would he have mirrored the Father's compassion and love.

Where do we stand with all of this? Do we at least understand that God's vision is often in conflict with the vision put forth in our world and even the one we advance ourselves? There is no doubt that it is incredibly challenging to find a place for everyone at the table. This challenge is compounded when the systems of operation and structure that are so ingrained in us affirm power and privilege rather than inclusivity and justice. Everything really goes askew when the powerful begin to control who is entitled to wholeness and inclusion, and greed becomes a driving force. Prejudice and entitlement raise their ugly heads and we find ourselves with quite a mess. It's time to admit that things have been a mess for a very long time. The mess needs to be healed, not by erasing it but by allowing God to touch it and make it whole. We need to bring God back to the center of life where God belongs. There are no easy solutions to the world's dilemmas. But, knowing that wholeness, healing, and dignity are worthy pursuits, we can more confidently labor to achieve God's vision.

## **Join us in praying the Rosary before Mass.**

**Tuesdays at 5:10 p.m.**

**Wednesday—Friday at 8:10 a.m.**

**Saturday—3:40 p.m. K of C**

**Sunday— 10:10 a.m. Volunteers**

## **Dates to Remember**

**February 17th:** Ash Wednesday Mass in Saco at 4:00 p.m.

**February 17th:** Ash Wednesday— Mass in Malta at 6:00 p.m.

## Mass Intentions

As Catholics, we have a long tradition of having Masses celebrated for those we offer up in prayer. The Mass is the ultimate form of prayer, and each Mass is celebrated for an intention. We ask \$10.00 per mass intention.

and anniversaries, as well as those who are in need of prayers. Masses are also encouraged in memory of those loved ones who have died, especially on the anniversaries of their deaths. Please contact Fr. Felix for more information.

Please consider having Masses celebrated for family and friends on special occasions



	<b>Goal</b>	<b>Remaining</b>	<b>Past Due</b>
<b>Malta:</b>	\$15,520.00	\$3080.00	\$92,145.91
<b>Dodson:</b>	\$3,204.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
<b>Saco:</b>	\$2,525.00	\$0.00	\$0.00

## Sacrificial Giving for 2-7-2021

	<b>2-7</b>	<b>Needed</b>	<b>Direct Deposit</b>
Malta:	\$1,036.00	\$3,879.78	\$225.00
Dodson:	\$175.00	\$416.18	\$0.00
Saco:	\$350.00	\$470.96	\$0.00

## Finance Council

Charlie Mears 654-7006, cmears@itstriangle.com

Regina Webb 319-491-7607, auntregina@gmail.com

Lance Hould 406-539-5772, lanceh\_99@hotmail.com

Mike Ereaux 658-2613 (H), 654-7803 (C), mfe7195@itstriangle.com

Scott King 654-7302, sbking1959@gmail.com

Lana Fortin 654-4811, lanafortin03@gmail.com

Please send bulletin announcements to [office@SaintMarysMalta.org](mailto:office@SaintMarysMalta.org) by Thursday Morning. Thanks!

## Liturgy & Worship Commission - update 2/09/2021

Sign up for various Ministries continues and Committee Leaders are guidelines for each are in final review and being distributed. All Ministers including Lectors, Sacristans, Altar Servers, Hospitality, Environment/Décor and Musicians are invited to participate in a special commission blessing following the Homily at both Saturday, February 13th and Sunday, February 14th Masses.

Welcome Sunday with brunch or breakfast following will continue - tentatively on the 4th Sunday of each month and hopefully in coordination with the RE Youth. Please watch for detailed announcement for Sunday, February 28th.

**VOLUNTEERS NEEDED:** Stations of the Cross will be held each Friday during Lent at 6:30PM – we are seeking leaders for each week. Fr. Felix has requested we conduct a Good Friday Re-enactment – if you are interested in the planning of this activity or helping lead Stations, please contact Anne Boothe ASAP.

**The Environment/Decor Committee** led by Bridget Ereaux will meet to complete the Lent decorating at 2PM on Wednesday, February 17th. This is Ash Wednesday, so work will move quickly – anyone interested in assisting is invited.

**PCCW update** – PCCW has been asked to provide refreshments for the upcoming Red Cross Blood Draw in Malta on Thursday, February 18th. If you would like to serve as host that day or can bring sandwiches or cookies, please contact Linda Manoukian or Cheryl Moore.

PCCW will meet immediately following Mass on Sunday February 14th. Please join us in the church basement.

## Parish Council

Alora Snider— 399-1675, alora\_lynn\_09@hotmail.com (Malta)

Shawn Bleth— 654-1370, shawn.bleth@gmail.com (Malta)

Cliff Merriman— 654-4391, merrimanclifford@gmail.com (K of C)

Wilma Mavencamp—654-1346, maven100@itstriangle.com (PCCW)

Tom DePuydt—674-7060, 4bard@itstriangle.com (Saco)

Leona Kienenberger—383-4459, leona\_kienenberger@yahoo.com (Dodson)

# The Eucharist: Catholic Beliefs and Practices

*The forth in a series of teachings on the Eucharist*

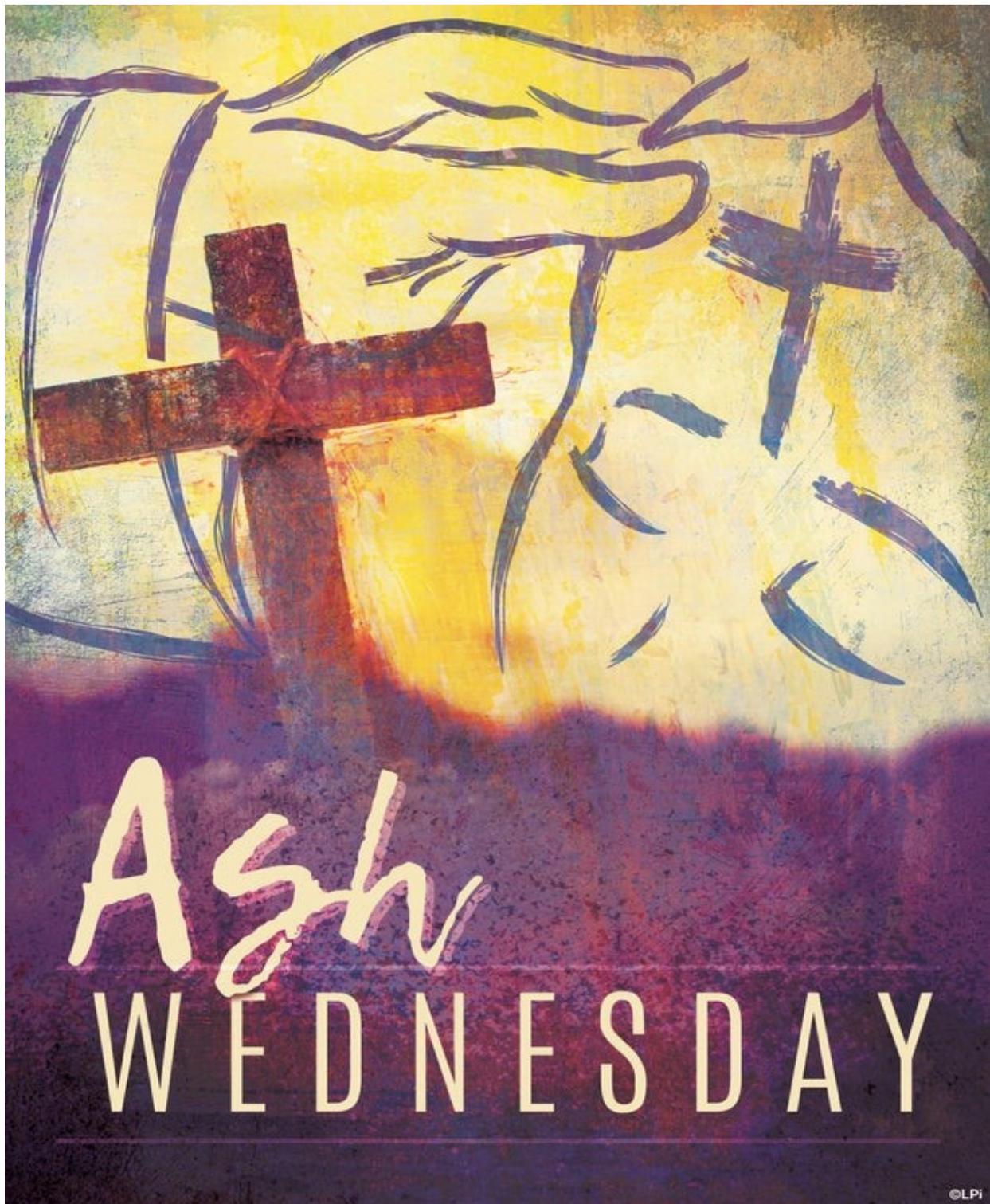
*Bishop Michael Warfel*

I was at one of our Catholic schools for Mass a while back. A Communion Minister mentioned to me that some of the Precious Blood had accidentally spilled on the floor. I covered up the spill with a purificator and then, after Mass, knelt at the spot of the spill in order to properly clean up the spill. Another Communion Minister who was present, related the incident to a member of my staff saying that I had made a big deal out of that issue of the Precious Blood spilling on the floor. My staff member retorted, “It was a big deal!”



The Eucharist is the body and blood of Jesus Christ! Chapter 6 in the Gospel of John is most definite about the presence of Christ in the Eucharist: “Whoever feeds on my flesh and drinks my blood has life eternal” (Jn 6:54). Some of the followers of Jesus found this discourse, not only intellectually and religiously problematic, but nauseating. Throughout the OT, there were specific prohibitions against the eating of flesh with its blood, blood being the life principle. Some of Jesus’ followers actually walked away from him, but Jesus did not equivocate or soften what he was saying. He even said it more forcefully.

From our more contemporary perspective, we would ask, “How is Christ present when what we see and taste is but bread and wine?” The term used by the Church for centuries to explain this is transubstantiation: “Jesus Christ, whose body and blood in the sacrament of the altar are truly contained under the appearances of bread and wine, the bread having been transubstantiated into the body and the wine into the blood by divine power.” While there is a substantial transformation, the accidental nature of the bread and wine remain. The substance is no longer merely bread or wine, but Christ. This substantial change is visible only through the eyes of faith and is based on the words of Jesus himself. So based on what Jesus taught, the teaching of the Church solidly asserts that in the Eucharistic species Christ is present body, blood, soul and divinity.



Ash  
WEDNESDAY