

# MOST HOLY BODY & BLOOD OF CHRIST

## JUNE 14, 2020

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Dear Brothers and Sisters of Sacred Heart:

We celebrate today the Solemnity of Corpus Christi. Even those among us who are not Latin scholars probably know that *Corpus Christi* translates “Body of Christ”. Actually, the Church has set aside several days on its liturgical calendar to honor the Body of Christ. On December 25, Christmas, we celebrate the Incarnation, the birth of Christ, when the Son of God took a *human* body and became like us. Two weeks ago, we celebrated Pentecost, the coming of the Holy Spirit, and the birth of the Church, which Pope Pius XII and Vatican II have called the *Mystical* Body of Christ. Today we honor the Body of Christ as it is presented to us in another form, the *sacramental* body of Christ that we receive in Holy Communion and which we honor in the Blessed Sacrament.

It all began, of course, with the words of Jesus at the Last Supper when he took bread and said to those at the table with him: “Take it, this is my body.” Those first disciples of Jesus probably never expected to hear those words. They were not part of the Passover meal that they were celebrating. They represented something totally new. We are told that everything was going according to tradition: that Jesus took bread, blessed it, broke it, and gave it to them exactly as the Jewish ritual required. But his subsequent words changed everything: “Take it, this is my body,” Jesus said. So, this was no longer the bread of the Passover; it was no longer a commemoration of the Exodus of the Israelites from Egypt which we here about in today’s first reading (Dt. 8: 2ff). It no longer referred to the sacrifice of the Passover lamb but rather to the sacrifice of Jesus himself. “Brothers and sisters,” St. Paul says in our second reading for today: “The cup of blessing that we bless, is it not a participation in the blood of Christ? The bread that we break, is it not a participation in the body of Christ? (1 Cor. 10:16-17)” So we are reminded that the bread (and wine) we receive at every Mass is connected with the mystery of our faith and with Jesus’ saving mission, which was, as St. Paul continues, to bring about unity among his followers and be an example to others: “Because the loaf of bread is one,” he said, “we, though many, are one body, for we all partake of the one loaf.”

So today the Church invites us to reflect on the Real Presence of Christ in the Eucharist and what this should mean in our lives. Unfortunately, most of us have not received sacramental Communion for nearly three months now. Although we have had the opportunity to personally visit the Blessed Sacrament in the church for the past few weeks and to view the Mass on video from

our parish each day, it’s not the same as participating fully in the liturgy and receiving the consecrated host in an active way. This, of course, will hopefully be coming in the very near future as our churches begin to reopen. But until then, let’s take this time of separation from the sacramental body of Christ as an opportunity to renew our faith; not to turn our backs on Christ as the crowds did in the Gospel of John, complaining that this was a hard saying and could not be taken seriously, but rather to acknowledge along with Peter and the other disciples that Jesus is truly the one having the words of eternal life—that his body is real food and his blood is real drink (Jn. 6:60-9).

The Eucharist is a gift, given out of love. It is food for our journey, meant to strengthen us as we move through life, striving for union with God who is the source and the end of all life. Jesus has no other motive in giving the Eucharist than love, a love so selfless and unconditional that it caused him to lay down his own life for us. We pray in the Our Father that we might receive our daily bread, and in the Eucharist our prayer is answered beyond our highest expectations.

St. Augustine says that when you receive the Eucharist with faith and with loving openness to the gift of God contained therein, you become what you receive: you yourself become Eucharist. May we rise to the challenge of the Eucharist, to be united one in mind and heart even as the grains of wheat become one bread and the many grapes become one wine. May we who now anticipate receiving the gift of the Lord’s body and blood be able to give ourselves just as wholeheartedly, just as generously, just as lovingly to Him and to one another. Please God, may we truly become what we are about to receive.

Fr. Michael Rafferty, OAR

Fr. John Gruben, OAR

### PRAYER TO THE SACRED HEART OF JESUS

*Lord Jesus, let my heart never rest until it finds You,  
Who are its center, its love, and its happiness.*

*By The wound in Your Heart*

*Pardon the sins that I have committed*

*Whether out of malice or out of evil desires.*

*Place my weak heart in*

*Your own divine Heart,*

*Continually under Your protection and guidance,  
so that I may persevere in doing good and in  
fleeing evil until my last breath.*

*Amen.*

**St. Margaret Mary Alacoque**

## PHASE II

Dear Parishioners,

We are excited to announce, that based on the recent statements made by the State of New York and with the permission of our Archbishop, Timothy Cardinal Dolan, we are, once again, able to offer Sunday Masses (schedule had been amended to allow for disinfecting), Daily Mass, Funeral Masses, Baptisms and Weddings. Daily Mass began here at Sacred Heart on June 9<sup>th</sup>, and for the time being we will continue to celebrate Mass at noon daily (live streaming will also continue) and Reconciliation will be administered by appointment only, please call the rectory office which is now open Monday thru Thursday from 9am to 5pm, and Friday 9am to 2pm.

All precautions must be taken (wearing of masks, maintaining a six-foot distance, no physical contact except for communion, frequent washing of hands, and sanitizing surfaces). Our first priority is the safety of the clergy and people, and self-care of all ministers. The second priority is to resume in-person worship.

Please remember, that because of the ongoing health crisis, the Cardinal has *dispensed* everyone from the Sunday Mass obligation, so if you are uncomfortable about being with a group, watching Mass and a spiritual communion is still in effect.

Current State regulations restrict each house of worship to utilizing no more than **25% of** its seating capacity. Those who wish to attend any of the above public services need to observe all of the important health practices which we have learned in the past three months:

+ If any member of your household has a fever, or is feeling ill, please remain at home.

+ If you have any pre-existing health conditions, you should remain at home at this phase.

+ Pews have been premeasured for seating with appropriate 6' social distancing in-between. Members of the same household may sit together. Available seating is marked with a green X.

+ Since seats will be filled-in as people arrive, there will be no choice of seating location.

+ Facial coverings (masks) must be worn to Mass.

+ To avoid contact, there will be no offertory procession or *exchange of peace* during the Mass.

+ The Sacred Host will be distributed in the hand only. For those who feel that receiving in the hand is unacceptable we ask that you wait to receive until the celebrant asks those who wish to receive on the tongue come forward. Please form a single line and observe the 6' social distance as you proceed down the center aisle. Disabled persons may remain seated.

+ Hand sanitizer dispensers are available on the walls of the church, and at the entrance

+ Entrance into the church is on the awning side of our building only.

We are working to do all that is necessary in this new normal to assure the health and safety of our parishioners. Due to the need to disinfect between Masses amending our Mass Schedule is necessary. Currently there will be the Saturday Vigil Mass at 5:30pm and Sunday Mass at 10:00am in Spanish and 12:00pm in English. As we continue to refine all that is needed to assure the best way to proceed, we will be adding Masses to the schedule. If you attend Mass, please note the new layout for seating in the Church. These measures have been implemented to assure as best we can the health and safety of all.

We pray that you and your loved ones stay healthy and safe. Please know that Fr. Gruben and I pray for you daily. We will keep you informed of changes and future plans as they occur. Blessings to All,

Fr. Michael Rafferty, OAR, Pastor

Fr. John Gruben, OAR, Assistant

### PARISH CALENDAR

#### **Monday, JUNE 15**

Mass at 12:00 noon and Church open 1pm to 5pm

#### **Tuesday, JUNE 16**

Mass at 12:00 noon and Church open 1pm to 5pm

#### **Wednesday, JUNE 17**

Mass at 12:00 noon and Church open 1pm to 5pm

#### **Thursday, JUNE 18**

Mass at 12:00 noon and Church open 1pm to 5pm

#### **Friday, JUNE 19 FEAST OF THE SACRED HEART**

Mass at 12:00 noon and Church open 1pm to 5pm

#### **Saturday, JUNE 20**

#### **Sunday, JUNE 21 FATHER'S DAY**

### CARDINAL'S APPEAL 2020

Now more than ever the Archdiocese of New York needs your support. The virus which we realize has impacted us all makes your support if possible, even greater. Parishes are only as strong as its parishioners. As you are aware a church's resources come only through the generosity of its parish family. When things start to return to normal parishes needing support through the Archdiocese can only get it through the funds the Appeal makes yearly. Please consider donating today. Bless you all and pray for an end to this virus. To date we have raised \$80,601.00. towards our goal of \$122,500.

### SACRED HEART RELIGIOUS

#### EDUCATION PROGRAM 2020-2021

Registration for all First Graders and New Registrants is now being taken, please visit our website: [www.sacredheartparish.org](http://www.sacredheartparish.org) for forms or please call 357-6044 for all questions and to receive registration forms via mail.

A program for children with Special Needs is available. Please supply us with a copy of your child's baptismal certificate for registration. Thank you.



Please pray for those who are ill and have asked us to pray for them:

Keith Alanis, Jenna Applebaum, Theresa Anselmi, Michael Brady, Angie Clifford, Robert Conly, Comerford Family, Teresa & Tom Consolo, Mirella Cosentino, Joe Davey, Anthony DeFrancesco III, Matthew DeMayo, Cledha Desir, Mary Discini, John Duffy, David Eckert, Sr., Ginny Figula, Stefanie Gaudelli, Arlene Gentile, Mark Goldman, Debra Gravina, Senan Halpin, Roy Harris, Clement Hayes, Mr. Harris, Domenic & Anthony Iannaccone, Rob Incognoli, Bob Janson, Fran Janson, Anna Kasperska, Eileen Kennedy, Fred Lemoine, Elizabeth Lempka, Vasily Lockhart, Roberta Lynch, Laura Mack, Rosemarie Manthey, Matthew Luludis, Marie Marasuilo, Thomas Mathai, Jeanne Matera, Richard McCarthy, Rosemary McCormick, Debra McGovern, Catherine McMenamin, John McLoughlin, Jacob Mendelsohn, Ken Meyer, Florence Mohan, Joseph Mikulka, Barbara Neilson, Robert Nunes, Thomas O'Connor, Jennifer O'Hara, Pat O'Neill, Nancy Overend, Shace Paljusevic, Noreen Pidgeon, Peter Princi, Etta Rooney, Claudia Spallanzani, Joseph Pasculli, (Baby Ty) Reilly, Michael Shumway, Jean Simons, Roberto Sorgo, Maureen Starke, Shaun Stein, Janet Tamburro, Richard Vanadio, Barbara Veraldo Strano, Phyllis Varacalli, Kali Villela, Robert Vogt, Fr. Wing, and Vladimir Zaslavsky.



FOR OUR ARMED FORCES & FIRST RESPONDERS OF ALL KINDS, AND OUR DOCTORS & NURSES

We pray for all the men and women serving our country AND especially the sons and daughters, grandchildren and loved ones of our parishioners.

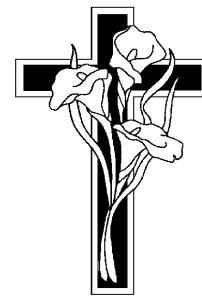
ALTAR MEMORIALS JUNE 14, 2020

ALL ALTAR MEMORIALS IN MEMORY OF THE VICTIMS OF COVID-19 AND ALL THOSE WHO ARE PERSECUTED



Let us pray for our deceased parishioners, and family members and loved ones:

Especially: Lucila Dimas



DAILY MASS WILL OCCUR AT 12:00PM DAILY (MON.-FRIDAY) AND IS OPEN TO THE PUBLIC SUNDAYS AT 10:00AM (SPANISH) 12:00PM (ENGLISH)

MASS WILL ALSO BE LIVE STREAMED ON OUR WEBSITE: WWW.SACREDHEARTPARISH.ORG

SATURDAY, VIGIL MASS

5:30pm - Harold "Hack" Gravius/ Dianne Messina SUNDAY, June 14

10:00am - Spanish Mass Only 12:00pm - Marie Lane/ Johnny & Peggy McGrath and Joseph B. Varano

MONDAY, JUNE 15

7:00am - Joseph Ciaccio 9:00am - Francesca & Vito Lanzisera 7:15pm - NO Novena

TUESDAY, JUNE 16

7:00am - 9:00am -

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 17

7:00am - 9:00am -

THURSDAY, JUNE 18

7:00am - 9:00am - Henry Keane

FRIDAY, JUNE 19 FEAST OF SACRED HEART

7:00am - Special Intention Alan Petukh 9:00am - Mario Varano

SATURDAY, JUNE 20

9:00am - Eugene & Rose Magurno

SATURDAY, VIGIL MASS

5:30pm - Mary & Frank Battaglia

SUNDAY, JUNE 21 FATHER'S DAY

7:00am - All FATHERS 8:30am - All FATHERS 10:00am - All FATHERS 11:30am - All FATHERS 1:00pm - All FATHERS 5:30pm - All FATHERS

BOOSTER CLUB

WEEK 17- JOHN D'ADAMO