

JMJ

Dear Parishioners,

Today we will look at some questions on how to strengthen our love for Our Lord in the Eucharist on this the Feast of Corpus Christi. Please note this weekend we will have two stations for Holy Communion along the altar rail where we will be distributing by intinction. There will be one Minister of Holy Communion at the center isle for those that would like to receive just the host. If you want to receive by intinction you have to receive on the tongue. If you would like to kneel you may, but please note that no one is to feel compelled to receive by intinction or to kneel to receive Holy Communion. We are doing this for the feast and to follow our Holy Father Pope Francis as this is how he distributes Holy Communion.

Why Kneel?

Strengthening the laity's faith in the Real Presence: In 1950, 87% believed in the Real Presence. Today, that number has plummeted to a mere 34%. Pope Benedict XVI Emeritus, has noted that kneeling is "an expression of Christian culture, which transforms the existing culture through a new and deeper knowledge and experience of God." He reminds us that "the word *proskynein* alone occurs fifty-nine times in the New Testament, twenty-four of which are in the Apocalypse, the book of the heavenly liturgy, which is presented to the Church as the standard for her own liturgy."

In his book *The Spirit of the Liturgy*, Pope Benedict Emeritus speaks of a "story that comes from the sayings of the Desert Fathers, according to which the devil was compelled by God to show himself to a certain Abba Apollo. He looked black and ugly, with frightening thin limbs, but, most strikingly, he had no knees. The inability to kneel is seen as the very essence of the diabolical."

Why Receive on the tongue?

Despite the widespread practice of Communion in the hand, the universal discipline of receiving Holy Communion on the tongue has not changed. A bishop, for example, may forbid the practice of Communion in the hand but not the practice of Communion on the tongue. The Church strongly encourages the latter but not the former. With respect to Communion in the hand, the Church speaks only in a cautionary tone because of the many abuses that often accompany this practice.

Saint Thomas Aquinas reminds us, with respect to Communion in the hand ... that reverence demands that only what has been consecrated should touch the Blessed Sacrament. He writes:

"The dispensing of Christ's body belongs to the priest for three reasons. First, because he consecrates in the person of Christ. Secondly, because the priest is the appointed intermediary between God and the people, hence as it belongs to him to offer the people's gifts to God, so it belongs to him to deliver the consecrated gifts to the people. Thirdly, because out of reverence toward this sacrament nothing touches it but what is consecrated, hence the corporal and the chalice are consecrated, and likewise the priest's hands, for touching this sacrament. Hence it is not lawful for anyone else to touch it, except from necessity — for instance, if it were to fall upon the ground, or else in some other case of urgency".

Saint Mother Teresa reportedly said, "Wherever I go in the whole world, the thing that makes me the saddest is watching people receive Communion in the hand." Even Saint John Paul II reportedly said: "There is an apostolic letter on the existence of a special valid permission for this [Communion in the hand]. But I tell you that I am not in favor of this practice, nor do I recommend it."

Whichever way you choose to receive Holy Communion is up to your own conscience, just please pray that the Church Universal will strengthen in belief around the most precious gift of Our Lord's true Body, Soul and Divinity in the Eucharist.

Sincerely yours in Christ,
Father Newcomb

Liturgical Ministers for June 9/10, 2018

MASS	LECTOR	MINISTERS OF HOLY COMMUNION	ALTAR SERVERS
4:00PM	J. SMITH	J. FLYNN, W. PONDS, A. WITKOWSKI	S. PHILLIPS, J. MARCONE
8:30AM	M. LATINI	J. SNELLINGER, T. CALVARIO	T. LAMOREAUX, D. TRUJILLO
11:30AM	H. MARINARO	T. MARION, N. SMITH	S. CUELLO, A. ST. LOUIS

The Corpus Christi Procession will be TODAY, June 3rd beginning at 9:30am.

All are invited

especially all children that have received 1st Holy Communion, dressed in their Communion apparel.

This weekend, June 2nd/3rd Fr. Sean Harlow, will be speaking at all Masses on behalf of the Missionary Cooperative Plan of the Archdiocese of New York.

The 2nd collection on June 2nd/3rd is for Catholic Missions Among Black and Indian people.

The Annual Baccalaureate Service will be held at our parish on Sunday, June 3rd at 7pm in the Church. Please pray for all the students graduating High School this year.



Next weekend we will have a **Bakeless Bake Sale** to benefit our Respect Life committee projects. Please see the insert in next weekend's bulletin.

Daniel Bradley is completing his Eagle Project (Troop 173) sending 50 "care packages" to soldiers overseas. For more information and to donate, please contact Dan Bradley 845-820-0241.

The religious education program is currently accepting registrations for the 2018-2019 school year.

Early bird registration ends June 14th.

Monthly Healing Mass-A Healing Mass is held on the last Thursday of every month at 7:00pm at The National Shrine of Our Lady of Mt. Carmel, 70 Carmelite Drive, Middletown, NY. The next Healing Mass is scheduled for Thursday, May 31st. Call Carol Bezak, Shrine Director 343-1879 for further information.

Fr. Glenn Sudano, CFR, a founding member of the Franciscan Friars Of the Renewal, and a well known retreat director, will be offering a weekend retreat for the women of St. Stephen's Parish on June 29, 30, July 1st. The retreat will be held at Sacred Heart Center, Newton, NJ. The cost is \$215.00 per person which includes meals and private room with bath. Registration is due on or before June 10th. Space is limited. If interested, please call Frances Cantone at 845-986-4038.

ANNOUNCED MASSES

- Monday, June 4**
9:00am Living and deceased members of the Caracciolo family, by Agnes and Mary
- Tuesday, June 5 (Boniface, bishop and martyr)**
9:00am Ann Brown, by Rosemary Grasso
- Wednesday, June 6 (Norbert, bishop)**
9:00am In Thanksgiving, by Jim Froehlich
- Thursday, June 7**
9:00am Ann Brown, by Kathy Goodrow and Lacie Decker
- Saturday, June 9 (Immaculate Heart of the BVM)**
4:00pm The parishioners of St. Mary's
- Sunday, June 10**
8:30am Magdalena Real, by Steve and Jeri Riordan
11:30am Dr. Marie Connors, by Amelia Quinn

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE SICK: Joann Wilcox, Jackie Mundy, Theresa Fuller, Donald Wolff, Sue Fitzsimmons, Barbara Straub, Robert Cinerar, Sandy Osbourne, Theresa Kavanagh, John McKean, William Lincoln, Jeanine Lincoln, Michael Barnes, Elizabeth Brennan, Walter Szpakowicz, Frances Brennan, Andrea Fedoruk, Jose Ramos, Carmen Ramos, Mercedes Rodriguez, Elizabeth Startup Jones, Thomas Davies, Pat Arnold, William Gaide, Sue Arnold, Steve Wilkinson, William Thomas, Maureen Hildebrandt, Charles Hildebrandt, Aedan Roach, James Roach, Robin Radzikowski, Dotty Lynch, Jesse G Smith, Marge Evans, Kaitlyn Smith, Jerome Smith, Joseph Fritts, Patricia Meinhold, Susan Upton, Devin Upton, Kathy Drane, Wayne DeMarco, Danielle Devore, Jennifer Utz, Jacqueline Hamilton, Tonya Cannon, Ryan O'Connor, Peter Billman, Helen Andreano, Tito Rivera, Maryann Gasko, Chris Marion III, Carson Fuller, Neil Stasilli, Debi Cotugno, Louis Harford, and Ramonita Irizarry.

The collection for May 26/27, 2018 was \$4,592.50
Thank you for your continued generosity.