

**The Bells of St. Mary's
The Church of the Immaculate Conception**

The most holy body and blood of Christ June 14, 2020

From Rev. Fr. Anthony Ekanem, MSP

MOST HOLY BODY and BLOOD OF CHRIST

The Solemnity of the Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ (Corpus Christi) is celebrated two weeks after Pentecost Sunday. Corpus Christi, the Feast of the Sacred Body and Blood of Jesus Christ, provides us with the sustenance we need in our faith journey. It is the Most Holy Eucharist. It is a profound, prophetic, and powerful Feast in the liturgical year of the Catholic Church. This celebration of the Body and Blood of Christ is significant and meaningful, especially during this unrest in America. What a beautiful way amid the COVID - 19 pandemic to celebrate this unique and spiritual source of nourishment in our country.

On this day, through our readings at Holy Mass, the homily is focused on the meaning of the Feast, and our active preparation and participation, are to remind that Jesus Christ still gives Himself to us, Body, Blood, Soul, and Divinity. He comes to live within us, and we live in Him through our Baptism into His Body, the Church.

The celebration of this Solemnity goes back to the thirteenth century. Pope Urban IV instituted it in 1264 for the entire Church. He wanted it to be filled with joy and accompanied by hymns and a festive procession. He asked the great Western Church father, St. Thomas Aquinas, to compose two Offices of prayer. St Thomas did so - along with five hymns - and they have nourished the piety of Christians for centuries. In one of them, St. Thomas noted: Material food, first of all, turns itself into the person who eats it and, consequently, restores his losses and increases his vital energies. Spiritual food, on the other hand, becomes the person who eats it into Itself. Thus, the proper effect of this sacrament is the conversion of man into Christ, so that he may no longer live for himself, but that Christ may live in Him. And as a consequence, it has the double effect of restoring the spiritual losses caused by sins and defects and of increasing the power of the virtues.

In this Feast, we proclaim our belief in the Real presence of Jesus Christ in the Holy Eucharist. We also declare that same Jesus lives within each of us, baptized into His Body, the Church, of which we are members. That is also a Real presence. The Lord Himself teaches us that the entire Trinity takes up residence within us. (See, e.g., John 14:23) Then, through our life in the Church, which is His Body, and our participation in the Sacraments, which communicate Divine Life, we can begin to live in the Trinity, right now.

This theological mystery is what we call Communion. It is a word with multiple implications. It is one reason why we call the reception of the Eucharist, Holy Communion at Mass and just Service. The Christian faith and life are about relationship, with the Father, in and through His Son Jesus through the Holy Spirit for the sake of the world. The world into which we live in is the world that God still loves so much that He continues to send His Son - to save, recreate, and transform it from within.

In the Holy Eucharist, we receive the Divine Host, Jesus Christ. Through our Baptism, Jesus Christ has taken up residence within each one of us. Jesus told his disciples, Amen, Amen, I say to you unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink his blood, you do not have life within you. The Feast of Corpus Christi follows the great Feast of the Holy Trinity in the Western Catholic Church calendar to show us this profound connection every year. Through our continual reception of the Eucharist, we live more fully in the Trinitarian Communion. Then we are sent into the world to carry Jesus to others by our way of life. The Lord wants all men and women to live within the Church. She is the home of the whole human race and a seed of the kingdom.

This Feast reminds all of us of the call to continuing conversion, the universal call to holiness. Each of us bears the name Christian is to become more like the one we love and in whom we live. The early Eastern Church Fathers referred to the Church as the "world transfigured" and the "world reconciled." That reconciliation and transfiguration continue through the Church.

In Paul's letter to the Christians in Philippi, we are faithful citizenship in heaven. While we live in this current age, we participate in bringing happiness to earth and earth to heaven. Christians live in the Church and go into the world. Our mission is to bring this world back to God in and through Jesus Christ.

We have received the Bread of Heaven. Let us choose to become what we consume. These Feasts are not just rituals on a Church calendar. They are invitations to encounter the Lord Jesus Christ, and then offer Him to a world waiting to be born anew. On this Feast of Corpus Christi, let us ask the Lord to come and take up residence within us anew. Let us receive, adore, and become Eucharist for others as followers of Jesus Christ.

Stewardship

God's Plan of Giving May 24 & 31, 2020 \$2,358 We Share = \$245.00

CONTINUE TO JOIN US FOR MASS LIVESTREAM BY GOING TO: <https://icmary103.com>

(The Spanish & English Weekend Masses)

Saturday: 5:00 PM English

Sunday: 11:00 AM English

Saturday 7:30 PM Spanish

Sunday: 9:00 PM Spanish

Note: Although we are permitted to reopen for Public worship, there is no obligation that one must attend Masses in Church especially if one is vulnerable, afraid, or uncomfortable about joining at Mass this time. We will encourage everyone to come into our Church through the main door during this time and go out through the side / Chapel door.

CONTINUED FINANCIAL SUPPORT We urge all who can to please consider joining the online We Share automated giving program by going to: <https://icmary.churchgiving.com/> to set up automatic giving to keep our staff, clergy, and buildings ready for us when this crisis ends, as it will. After the page opens, look around We Share at the collection opportunities and click on the yellow button, "Make a Donation", and follow directions. God bless you for your continuing sacrifices.

Please, continue to bring your collection envelopes or any contribution you wish to make to help support our parish, staff and our utility expenses to our Church by mailing or dropping your envelope at the Parish Office. Thank you

INFORMATION

Flynn Memorial Home, Inc.

Have been providing us with calendar every year. As a private business and a sign of appreciation on our part to them, I wish to appeal to you to remember and support them when you are making plans for funeral arrangements.

Parish Rectory Boiler Update

Already, we have been able to put down half the cost of installing a new Boiler in the Parish Rectory, and we are still in need of \$14,000 when the installation is complete.

An Appeal

I ask you, if possible, to consider an additional donation whenever you can add especially to these extra expenses so that we can serve you better. In most of our structures, in other words, the facilities here are obsolete, and we need to maintain them. I know many of you have asked us or expressed concern over how we are coping during this coronavirus pandemic. It is by the grace of God and your generosity that we can manage so far. I wish to strongly appeal to others who are behind in their contribution to the Church and those who feel they will like to support more to call the Parish Office at any time, and we can share more with you what we need and where we are financial. Yes, we have all stretched money wise during this crisis.

Sundays Readings:

First Reading: Deuteronomy 8: 2-3, 14b-16a (167A)

Moses reminded the people that for forty years God tested them in the desert. The Lord let them be hungry and fed them manna, showing that God's people do not live by bread alone.

Responsorial Psalm: Psalm 147: 12-13, 14-15, 19-20 Praise the Lord, Jerusalem.

Second Reading: 2 Corinthians 13: 11-13 By sharing in the Eucharistic bread, Christians, though many, are one body in Christ.

Gospel: John 6: 51-58 Jesus told the crowds that he is the living bread come down from heaven. All who want eternal life must "eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink his blood" Jesus said, "Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood has eternal life."

Religious Education

Religious Education Students and Parents at St. Mary's

We have on line the new registration for the Religious Education program on the website.

1. Please note that we need every child's parent email so that we can send information about the Religious Education information.

2. Anyone who would want to reach Marisa Rivera, please email to icmary103@gmail.com.

Archdiocesan Appeal

Update of 2020 Appeal Goals Goal: \$37,500.00 Pledged: \$30,492.00 Paid: \$23,090.00

Thank you very much for your contributions toward our Annual Cardinal's Appeal and Re - new and Re - build Campaign. We still need more pledges to reach our goal with the Annual Cardinal's Appeal. Please, help!

May Update of Renew & Rebuild Goal \$409,000.00 Pledges: \$420,984.30 Paid: \$229,551.50 Left: (\$191,432.80)
Thank you for all your generosity!

Mass Intention for the Week of June 13 to June 21, 2020

Saturday, June 13, 2020

12:05 - pm - Available/Disponibile
5:00 pm - Available/Disponibile
7:30 pm - Jose Roman + *Carmen Almedina

Sunday, June 14, 2020

7:30 am - Missa Pro Populo
9:00 am - Rafaela & Paula Navarro + * Carmen Navarro
11:00 am - Those impacted by the Covid-19 Pandemic

Monday, June 15, 2020

8:15 am - Available/Disponibile
12:05 pm - Available/Disponibile

Tuesday June 16, 2020

8:15 am - Available/Disponibile
12:05 pm - Available/Disponibile

Wednesday, June 17, 2020

8:15 am - Available/Disponibile
12:05 pm - Available/Disponibile

Thursday, June 18, 2020

8:15 am - Available/Disponibile
12:05 pm - Available/Disponibile

Friday, June 19, 2020

8:15 am - Available/Disponibile
12:05 pm - Available/Disponibile

Saturday, June 20, 2020

12:05 - pm - Available/Disponibile
5:00 pm - Father's Day Novena
7:30 pm - Father's Day Novena

Sunday, June 21, 2020

7:30 am - Father's Day Novena
9:00 am - Father's Day Novena
11:00 am - Father's Day Novena

+Indicates deceased *Indicates the person (s) who requested the Mass.

We still have days open for you to book Masses for your dear ones.

We still have some days open for you to book for Masses for special intention

His Eminence would like to offer our people the opportunity for the sacrament of reconciliation as the return to Sunday Mass becomes imminent, on the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus Friday June 19, 2020. 10:00 am - 12:00 pm and 4:00 pm - 6:00 pm

PRAYER

A PRAYER TO HELP US ALL THROUGH THIS COVID-19 CRISIS:

Prayer to the Virgin Mary for Protection

O Mary, you shine continuously on our journey as a sign of salvation and hope.

We entrust ourselves to you, Health of the Sick.

At the foot of the Cross you participated in Jesus' pain,
with steadfast faith.

You, Our Lady of New York, know what we need.

We are certain that you will provide, so that,
as you did at Cana of Galilee,

joy and feasting might return after this moment of trial.

Help us, Mother of Divine Love,

to conform ourselves to the Father's will and to do what Jesus tells us:

He who took our sufferings upon Himself, and bore our sorrows to bring us,
through the Cross, to the joy of the Resurrection. Amen.

We seek refuge under your protection, O Holy Mother of God.

Do not despise our pleas

we who are put to the test – and deliver us from every danger, O glorious and blessed Virgin.

Formed.org

Our parish has a free subscription to www.formed.org which gives you 24/7 access to over 300 quality Catholic on line programs, 99 + E-Books

- Go to formed.org .
- Click on "sign up",
- Click on "I belong to a parish or organization".
- Start typing name—Immaculate Conception St. Mary's Church Yonkers NY. You will see a number of parishes with this name).
- Scroll to Immaculate Conception St Mary's Church Yonkers, NY.
- Hit Next, - create account with your name and email.

After creating your account the next time you want to go on simply type in your web browser formed.org and it will bring you to the website. In the upper right corner you will then see sign in. Click that and you are set to enjoy all the wonderful resources. I would highly suggest during this time you sample some of the movies that they offer. Enjoy!