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The Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ

June 23, 2019

[A]s often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you
proclaim the death of the Lord until he comes.

— *1 Corinthians 11:26*

THIS SACRED MEAL

Today we celebrate the Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ. Each of the readings includes a blessing and a sharing of food. They remind us of the central place of meals in our lives. Each meal brings to mind other meals: the sharing of cookies and milk, pizza and beer, loaves and fishes, bread and wine. When we prepare a meal for our family, our friends, even strangers, we always put something of ourselves into the preparation and the meal itself. The Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ reminds us of what God put into the preparation for this meal that we celebrate today. We share this sacred meal and are transformed as we remember the death of Jesus and the sacrifice that nurtures our faith, sustains our lives, and supports our work.

TREASURES FROM OUR TRADITION

We owe today's beautiful feast to a valiant woman who suffered a great deal to establish a feast out of her love for the Eucharist. Juliana was a nun in Belgium in the thirteenth century. She served in a hospital for lepers. She became convinced through her prayer that the liturgical year was incomplete because it had no feast for the Eucharist. Her efforts were not welcome, and a supervising priest sought to punish her for promoting a feast that "nobody wanted." He even had her accused of financial mismanagement and banished her from her convent.

Shortly after she was exiled, the bishop approved the feast. It quickly spread through Europe. In those days, people very seldom received Holy Communion, and so the processions through the streets with the eucharistic bread not only led to an awareness of Christ's hunger to be with us, but prepared the way for a deeper desire to receive Christ's Body and Blood in more frequent Communion. The feast grew rapidly, but Juliana disappeared into poverty and a hidden life. She ended her days as an " anchoress," a woman living in seclusion in a room attached to a parish church. Imagine her delight at seeing us gathered at the table of the Lord on this day, aware of Christ's presence in our midst, sharing fully in Christ's Body and Blood. Our celebration today invests her struggle and sorrows with dignity and meaning.

TODAY'S READINGS

First Reading — Melchizedek brought out bread and wine and blessed Abram (Genesis 14:18-20).

Psalms — You are a priest forever, in the line of Melchizedek (Psalm 110).

Second Reading — Paul gives his description of the institution of the Eucharist (1 Corinthians 11:23-26).

Gospel — Jesus spoke to the crowd about the kingdom of God and then fed them with five loaves and two fish (Luke 9:11b-17).

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Monday: Vigil: Jer 1:4-10; Ps 71:1-6, 15, 17;
1 Pt 1:8-12; Lk 1:5-17
Day: Is 49:1-6; Ps 139:1-3, 13-15;
Acts 13:22-26; Lk 1:57-66, 80

Tuesday: Gn 13:2, 5-18; Ps 15:2-4ab, 5; Mt 7:6, 12-14

Wednesday: Gn 15:1-12, 17-18; Ps 105:1-4, 6-9;
Mt 7:15-20

Thursday: Gn 16:1-12, 15-16 [6b-12, 15-16];
Ps 106:1b-5; Mt 7:21-29

Friday: Ez 34:11-16; Ps 23:1-6; Rom 5:5b-11;
Lk 15:3-7

Saturday: Vigil: Acts 3:1-10; Ps 19:2-5; Gal 1:11-20;
Jn 21:15-19
Day: Acts 12:1-11; Ps 34:2-9;
2 Tm 4:6-8, 17-18; Mt 16:13-19

Sunday: 1 Kgs 19:16b, 19-21; Ps 16:1-2, 5, 7-11;
Gal 5:1, 13-18; Lk 9:51-62

SAINTS AND SPECIAL OBSERVANCES

Sunday: The Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ

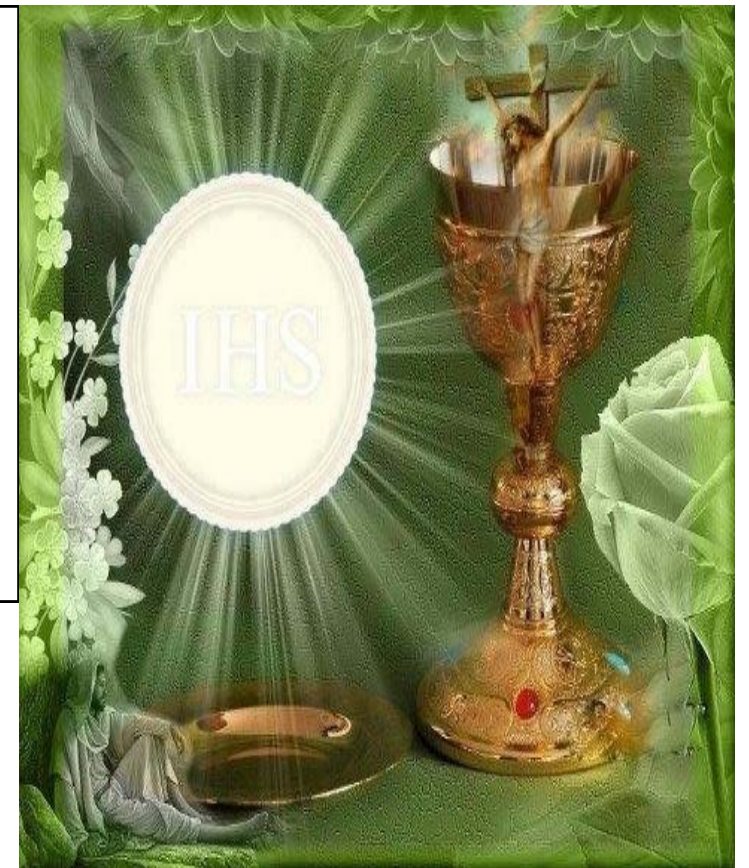
Monday: The Nativity of St. John the Baptist

Tuesday: Twelfth Week in Ordinary Time

Thursday: St. Cyril of Alexandria

Friday: The Most Sacred Heart of Jesus

Saturday: Ss. Peter and Paul, Apostles



THE EUCHARIST

Just as the bread, which is made from the earth, when God is invoked is no longer common bread but the Eucharist, both earthly and heavenly, so our bodies, after we have received the Eucharist, are no longer corruptible, since they hold the hope of the resurrection.

There will be a second
collection June 30th for
Peter 's Pence

June 30th
Lector Jeff

E/M Jim/Tom

USHERS Peach/Marins

Server Ty

Offertory 6./16/2019
BUDGET \$1249.00
ACTUAL \$\$ 1610.00

+\$361.00
B&M\$400.00