



SUNDAY, JUNE 6, 2021

St. Francis of Assisi Parish

THE MOST HOLY BODY

AND BLOOD OF CHRIST



Then he took a cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them, and they all drank from it. He said to them, "This is my blood of the covenant, which will be shed for many. Amen, I say to you, I shall not drink again the fruit of the vine until the day when I drink it new in the kingdom of God." - Mk 14:23-25



WORSHIP & MEDITATION



FIRST READING:

"This is the blood of the covenant that the LORD has made with you in accordance with all these words of his." (Ex 24:8)



PSALM:

I will take the cup of salvation, and call on the name of the Lord. (Ps 116)
Or Alleluia.



SECOND READING:

How much more will the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself unblemished to God, cleanse our consciences from dead works to worship the living God. (Heb 9:14)



GOSPEL:

He said to them,

"This is my blood of the covenant, which will be shed for many." (Mk 14:24)

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GOSPEL MEDITATION

Encourage Deeper Understanding of Scripture

As our world faces so much turmoil and change, it is now more important than ever to remember who God is, who we are and where we are going. It is easy to get distracted and lose focus, especially when we are being pulled in so many directions. We can not only lose sight of God but one another. Maintaining our well developed and mature relationships with God and one another is essential to continuing to live, healthy, happy, and focused lives. In a message to young people, Pope Benedict XVI said, "the happiness you are seeking, the happiness you have a right to enjoy has a name and a face: it is Jesus of Nazareth, hidden in the Eucharist." What is true for those who are younger is even truer for those who are older. Regardless of how the particulars of life change over time, human beings are still hard-wired to seek the fullness of life and happiness. How we embark on this journey and what we choose along the way will indicate whether we meet success.

There is so much brokenness and pain in our world. Many people are lost, feeling lonely, anxious, marginalized, victimized, isolated, oppressed, and abused. Every time we receive the Body of Christ, we have an opportunity to become what we eat. The power and presence of Christ in the Eucharist becomes present in us and effects change in ourselves and in the lives of those we meet. We are given the grace to become temples of justice and peace, carrying God's sacred Presence within us wherever we go. Our faith community is ignited with the fire of God's love and stands out as a beacon of hope in a world that is lost. This is the only way we can discover peace-filled resolutions to violence and create innovative solutions to what is fueling its need in the first place. True happiness, for the young and old alike, becomes an obtainable goal.

St. John Maria Vianney says it so well. "There is nothing so great as the Eucharist. If God had something more precious, he would have given it to us." Only the Eucharist has the ability to connect, sustain, strengthen, and properly orient us, not only on the road of this life but the road to life eternal. Knowing this, when life gets challenging, unsettling, and difficult, we can rely on and cling to this gift we have in the Real Presence of Christ. This actual encounter with God celebrates God's unconditional love for us and grounds us to the truth of who we are in a way nothing else is able to do. Because through the Eucharist we really do become the Body of Christ, we are also bonded together in a most perfect way to one another as that Body. Nourished, united, and strengthened by the Eucharist, let us individually and collectively, bring this wonderful gift to all we meet, especially the poor with whom we have a special connection.

Mass INTENTIONS

Monday, June 7

Rev. Dcn. Sal Alvarez+
Fr. Norman Segovia+
Walt Hasleman (Healing)

Tuesday, June 8

Martha Hong Van Nguyen (Birthday)
Maria Thinh Luong+
Walt Hasleman (Healing)

Wednesday, June 9

Rene Cordero+
Walt Hasleman (Healing)

Thursday, June 10

Demetra Manaois+
Domingo Manaois+
Edmundo Manaois+

Friday, June 11

Deepa Palamuttan - SI
Walt Hasleman (Healing)
Eduardo Pangilinan+

Saturday, June 12

Edward & Elvira Hahn (Anniversary)
Bill Madden+

Walt Hasleman (Healing)

Saturday/Sunday, June 12-13

4:00PM Vigil Mass

Nghi Van Pham and Ty Pham+
John Noi Bui+

Edward & Elvira Hahn (Anniversary)

5:30 Vietnamese Vigil

8AM

Ron Davis+

Gladys Manaois +

Fortunato Stanziale +

9AM

10AM

Joseph Michael Le+ & Maria Michelle Le+

Rex Garcia+

Javier Morquecho+

11AM

12PM

Eliazer Visenio+

Monique Moundele Mberi+

Ron Davis+

2PM Spanish

4PM Vietnamese

Ron Davis+

LET US PRAY

WE ALSO PRAY FOR...

CLASS OF 2021

**AMELITA DE GUZMAN
ARANDA+**

**LYNN HERNANDEZ
CABRIDO (BIRTHDAY)**

**LEONORA LIBAN
(RECOVERY, HEALTH
AND HEALING)**

**DELFIN LIBON JR. AND
CLAUDINE LIBAN
(HEALTH)**

stewardship

**TOTAL'S WE NOT AVAILABLE AT
THE TIME THIS PUBLICATION WAS
PRODUCED. THESE TOTAL'S WILL
BE IN NEXT WEEK'S BULLETIN**

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for your generous giving.**



Now that summer is upon us, the time of vacations and weekends away, it can be quite challenging for our parish financially. As the attendance at our weekend liturgies dwindles, so can the weekly support of our parishioners: **a very good reason to consider using ONLINE GIVING.** The challenge lies in the fact that our financial responsibilities do not go away during the months of June, July, and August. Summer is a time for us to do some extra maintenance work around the parish. and our work.

Your Sunday Offertory donations, as well as gifts to our second collections will be transferred from either your checking, savings, or credit card. A one-time enrollment will allow you contribute regularly to St. Francis of Assisi without remembering the extra step of writing a check and finding your envelopes. Online Giving is safe, easy and convenient for you and it helps us! You can sign-up online by visiting www.sfoasj.com and click the Online Giving icon on the homepage. Questions, call Victor Espinoza at: 408-223-1770 x302



THE REAL PRESENCE AND EUCHARISTIC DEVOTION

The Mass is “the source and summit of the Christian’s life. “From her beginning, the Church adored the Eucharistic Food she received as the Body and Blood of Christ. Over the centuries she developed Eucharistic devotions apart from the Sacrifice of the

Mass. The Middle Ages distinguished itself by an abundant display of Eucharistic piety. In that time, the Elevation of the Host and Chalice became common and the pealing of bells at the Consecration of the Mass became popular. Soon devotions outside of the Mass such as Benediction, Eucharistic processions, and this Solemnity of Corpus Christi itself were celebrated.

The Solemnity of Corpus Christi was first celebrated near Liège in 1246. Pope Urban IV declared it a universal celebration of the Church in 1264. Later Holy Hours, Forty Hours and Perpetual Adoration would be added to the Church’s storehouse of Eucharistic treasures.

There is a need in these times to renew our Eucharistic catechesis. Studies demonstrate that many Catholics misunderstand Holy Communion to be simply a symbol of the Body and Blood of Christ and not His Real Presence. There is also a need of catechesis regarding reception of Communion. You may recall as an initial precaution regarding COVID-19, I instructed parishes to discontinue distribution from the common chalice. This caused some to feel they were deprived of receiving Christ whole and entire. Yet, if we tap into the memory of the Church, we discover her ancient teaching that in receiving either the consecrated bread or wine, the communicant receives Christ, whole and entire, His soul and His divinity. *Pastoral Letter on The Most Holy Eucharist by Bishop Thomas Daly (former auxiliary bishop of the Diocese of San Jose.)*



St. Francis of Assisi Parish
Farewell Mass for
Fr. Michael Syjueco
Sunday, June 27 at 12pm



Thank
You

JUNE 6, 2021

OFFICE HOURS

Monday—Friday 9:00—4:00 PM
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Find us on
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Mass Schedule

If there is no rain, we will continue to provide Sunday Mass in the Upper Parking Lot Worship Space. We will have two INDOOR Masses at 9:00 am & 11:00 am. Please make your online reservation. Daily Mass will continue to be live-streamed each morning at 8:30 am. Limited seating will be available in the Gathering Hall.

Saturday Vigil Masses

4:00 pm (English)-Indoors

5:30 pm (Vietnamese)-Indoors

Masses for Sunday will be:

8:00 am-Upper Parking Lot Worship Space

9:00 am- Indoors

10:00 am-Upper Parking Lot Worship Space

11:00 am -Indoors

12:00 pm-Upper Parking Lot Worship Space

2:00 (Spanish)-Indoors

4pm (Vietnamese)-Indoors

Daily Mass will continue to be live streamed each morning, Monday through Friday, at 8:30am.

We will follow directives with which we are quite familiar: physical distancing; face coverings; hand sanitizer. It is essential that in-person worship not be the cause of further outbreaks of infection, and so we must insist on strict adherence to these safety measures.

Please remember that the general dispensation from the obligation to attend Sunday Mass remains in effect for all Catholics in the Diocese of San Jose until further notice. We will continue to upload a recording of Sunday Mass.

This is *one-step* in a long process of moving toward the day when we will celebrate Sunday Mass, the Sacraments, and other parish ministries and activities in the way we were accustomed in the pre-pandemic times.

Let us pray for each other. Let us practice charity and patience. Let us exercise prudence and right judgment, until the day of the Lord's return.

OUR LADY OF PERPETUAL HELP

Novena Mass for Our Mother of Perpetual Help. Every Wednesday. Rosary, 6:30 pm. Novena, 7pm. Mass follows immediately.

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION (CONFESIONS)

We are now in the phase where we can resume the Sacrament of Reconciliation. For the time being, we will offer the opportunity for Confessions on Saturdays from 11am - 12pm. They will be in the **Parish Office**. (ring the bell.) Please remember you must wear a face covering at all times while on parish property. Also, please form a line with six-feet of physical distancing.

Sign-up for Sunday Mass

If you would like to reserve a place at one of our 6 weekend Masses, you must use either sign up through the link emailed on Mondays to everyone, or through our webpage (www.sfoasj.com).

In a spirit of charity, we ask that you reserve a place for only one Mass each month, so that the other 85% of our parishioners have an opportunity to attend Sunday Mass. We will now record the Saturday vigil Mass which will be available by 6:00am on Sunday morning. Thank you for your patience and cooperation.

A link to register for Masses will be sent out via email at 9:55AM. EVERY MONDAY. Registration will not be visible or opened up until 10AM.

WEEKLY PRAYER

READINGS FOR THE WEEK OF JUNE 6, 2021

- SUN 6/6** Ex 24:3-8/Ps 116:12-13, 15-16, 17-18 [13]/Heb 9:11-15/Mk 14:12-16, 22-26
- MON 6/7** 2 Cor 1:1-7/Ps 34:2-3, 4-5, 6-7, 8-9 [9]/Mt 5:1-12
- TUES 6/8** 2 Cor 1:18-22/Ps 119:129, 130, 131, 132, 133, 135 [135a]/Mt 5:13-16
- WED 6/9** 2 Cor 3:4-11/Ps 99:5, 6, 7, 8, 9 [cf. 9c]/Mt 5:17-19
- THR 6/10** 2 Cor 3:15—4:1, 3-6/Ps 85:9ab and 10, 11-12, 13-14 [cf. 10b]/Mt 5:20-26
- FRI 6/11** Hos 11:1, 3-4, 8c-9/Is 12:2-3, 4, 5-6 [3]/Eph 3:8-12, 14-19/Jn 19:31-37
- SAT 6/12** 2 Cor 5:14-21/Ps 103:1-2, 3-4, 9-10, 11-12 [8a]/Lk 2:41-51
- SUN 6/13** Ez 17:22-24/Ps 92:2-3, 13-14, 15-16 [cf. 2a]/2 Cor 5:6-10/Mk 4:26-34

OBSERVANCES FOR THE WEEK OF JUNE 6, 2021

- Sunday: The Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ
- Wednesday: St. Ephrem, Deacon and Doctor of the Church
- Friday: The Most Sacred Heart of Jesus
- Saturday: The Immaculate Heart of the Blessed Virgin Mary
- Next Sunday: 11th Sunday in Ordinary Time

LIVE THE LITURGY

Inspiration for the week

As we gather today to reaffirm our faith in the Real Presence of Christ in the Eucharist, we are reminded that **we** are also the Body of Christ. The mission of the Gospel calls us to be Christ for others. There is so much brokenness and pain in our world. Many people are lost and feeling lonely, marginalized and oppressed, victimized and abused. Every time we receive the Body (and Blood) of Christ, we are asked to become what we eat. Are we willing to step aside from our preoccupations and concerns so that we can be Christ for others? The power and presence of Christ in the Eucharist becomes present in us. In receiving this transforming presence of Christ, we can truly effect change in the lives of those we meet. We can show them God's unconditional, ever-present love and the beauty that can come from loving others. We are given the grace to become temples of justice and peace, carrying God's sacred Presence within us wherever we go.



**THE MOST HOLY BODY
AND BLOOD OF CHRIST**

*The Most
Sacred Heart
of Jesus*

CORPUS CHRISTI EUCHARISTIC



ADORATION We had a more than couple of dozen parishioners participate in our first all-night vigil of Eucharistic Adoration in honor of the Solemnity of the Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ last weekend. Our special thanks to all those who gave one hour of their time (especially between the hours of 1:00 am and 5:00 am.) The Adoration concluded with Benediction at 8:00 am on Sunday morning. We are pleased to continue this wonderful new tradition next year.



cómo solicitar en bit.ly/ilm21-22.

Please contact Fr. Matt
[\(mstanley@dsj.org\)](mailto:mstanley@dsj.org) for more information.

COME AND SEE DAY: God is still calling, perhaps now more than ever! The Dominican Nuns of Corpus Christi Monastery are hosting a Come and See: Virtual Retreat for single, Catholic women ages 18-38 on July 16-18, 2021. The virtual retreat will include Divine Office, informative talks, as well as opportunities for Q&A with the sisters. For more information and to submit a registration request, visit <https://www.opnunsmenlo.org/come-and-see-virtual-retreat> or contact Sister Joseph Marie O.P. at vocations@opnunsmenlo.org.

THE VALLEY CATHOLIC IS ALL-NEW!



THE VALLEY CATHOLIC

The new quarterly print magazine from the Diocese of San José is arriving at an estimated 70,000 parishioner homes across Santa Clara County this week.

Our new magazine, redesigned online presence, www.thevalleycatholic.org; and new monthly email newsletter will focus on local multi-lingual feature stories and columns that form, encourage, and equip Catholics to carry out the saving work of Jesus across the Diocese and beyond. Be sure to visit our new website www.thevalleycatholic.org to read this month's articles and sign up for our new monthly email newsletter.

DO YOU HAVE A CALL TO THE MINISTRY OF

LEADERSHIP WITHIN YOUR COMMUNITY? Do you currently participate in some form of pastoral ministry? Do you want to learn and get the skills to serve better your

community? Explore attending the ILM this year. The ILM is accepting nominations for the academic year 2021-2022, classes begin September 2021. Please find more about the ILM and how to apply at bit.ly/ilm21-22. Please contact Fr. Matt [\(mstanley@dsj.org\)](mailto:mstanley@dsj.org) for more information.



¿Siente un llamado al ministerio de liderazgo dentro de su comunidad? ¿Participa actualmente en alguna forma de ministerio pastoral? ¿Quiere aprender y obtener entrenamiento para servir mejor a su comunidad? Explore asistir al ILM este año. El ILM está aceptando nominaciones para el año académico 2021-2022, las clases comienzan en septiembre de 2021. Busque más información y

NOW AVAILABLE! RENT ASSISTANCE



PROGRAMS AND RESOURCES:

2 Programs for Rent Assistance now available! Low-income Santa Clara County residents who have been financially impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic can receive assistance with rent payments. Visit bit.ly/dsjhh21 to view details on available programs.



You Can Help Your Marriage – Do you feel alone? Are you frustrated or angry with each other? Do you argue ... or have you just stopped talking to each other? Does talking about it only make it worse? Retrouvaille (pronounced retro -vi with a long i) helps couples through difficult times in their marriages. This program has helped 10's of 1000's of couples experiencing difficulties in their marriage. For confidential information about or to register for the June Virtual Marriage Program beginning with a weekend on June 24-27, 2021 call 408-605-4998, email: SanJose@RetroCA.com or visit our website at www.HelpOurMarriage.org



St. Francis of Assisi Red Zinfandel is ready with your donation to our Wine Club. Our Red Zinfandel is a red wine grape, grown extensively in California since the mid-1800s, is grown in few other places in the world. The grapes can produce wines with plenty of character. High in natural alcohol and tannin, grown carefully it can be rich and complex, with dark fruit berry fruit and peppery spice. The most known example of Zinfandel outside of California is Italy's Primitivo, which can be similar in style, but is often a bit lighter and less alcoholic than West Coast examples.

Our 2018 Bottle 750ml : \$8.00 donation per bottle . or a case of 12, \$80.00 donation.

For a 2017 magnum bottle/ Event Size 1.5 LT. (Perfect for large gatherings where you are pouring) \$16.00 donation per bottle. \$65 donation for a case.

June 13, 2021

Eleventh Sunday in Ordinary Time

Saturday (Anticipated)

4:00pm – Fr. Stanley

5:30pm – Fr. Vu (Vietnamese)

Sunday

8:00am – Fr. Weisbeck

9:00am – Msgr. Mitchell

10:00am – Fr. Stanley

11:00am – Fr. Syjueco

12:00pm – Fr. Syjueco

2:00pm – Fr. Ruiz (Spanish)

4:00pm - Fr. Vu (Vietnamese)

Question of the week



Q. I'm divorced after 30 years following a church wedding. I've since remarried thru the Justice of the Peace. I DID NOT have my marriage annulled. I still take Communion. Please advise. Thank you.

Your question is not only one that affects many Catholics; it is also something that has been seriously discussed at length recently by our Church. In October 2015, the Holy Father, Pope Francis, led an international Synod of Bishops and this was one of the questions they discussed at great length.

First, I strongly encourage you to look into the annulment process. An annulment is a way of presenting your first marriage to the Church to examine its validity. It's not a Catholic divorce, rather, it's a way of honestly examining the marriage from the beginning to discern whether something so essential to the marriage bond was missing that the marriage was never entered into validly from the beginning. Very often, when a divorce takes place, it becomes apparent that something was indeed missing from the beginning. So please do look into this process carefully with your parish priest. Even if an annulment is not right for you, it is important to look into it.

Regarding your question about coming to receive Holy Communion, there is much to be said on this. First, as a general norm, Communion should be refrained from when one is married outside the Church. You are still strongly encouraged to come to church, pray and grow in your faith, but Holy Communion is best refrained from at this point. But this is not the end of the discussion so do not stop reading yet.

Regarding Holy Communion, the best thing to do is to make an appointment with your parish priest or another priest you trust and sit down to discuss your entire situation with him. It's important to talk about what happened with your first marriage as well as your current civil marriage. I hope that the priest will be compassionate and help you sort out what God wants of you. Again, the annulment process is something very important to consider. In the end, the goal must be to seek God's will and that must be done in collaboration with your parish priest.



Join Fr. Matt Stanley on a
Pilgrimage to **MEXICO**
& Our Lady of Guadalupe

April 22 – 27, 2022
\$1,998 from San Francisco

Group Coordinator:
Jacqueline Nguyen, Classique Travel

Telephone: 408-859-4411 |
Email: classiquetravel@gmail.com

Observing the Lord's Day

1. Set aside a specific time and space for prayer; doing so helps us to mark those moments and spaces as sacred.
2. Set aside times for family conversation, perhaps at a Sunday meal.
3. Make time to call friends and relatives and check in.
4. Connect with your parish, either virtually or in person, at Sunday Mass.
5. Set aside time for quiet meditation;
6. Pray before meals.
7. Make time for the spiritual and corporal works of mercy.
8. Read and reflect over the Scripture readings for Sunday Mass.
9. Reach out to others, parishioners, family, friends, especially the vulnerable.
10. Offer thanks and praise to God for the grace of these divine encounters in prayer.
11. Pray for our brothers and sisters who are oppressed in any way throughout the world, especially victims of racism.
12. Commit ourselves to the mission which God sets before us: in our family, workplace, neighborhood, community.





MAKE A DIFFERENCE WITH A SUSTAINING GIFT TO THE ADA!

Sustaining giving is a convenient way for you, the donor, to support the Annual Diocesan Appeal (ADA) for the Diocese of San Jose. No more writing checks, paying for postage, or making a trip to the post office! In addition, your gift will renew each year automatically so you won't have to worry about logging in and creating a new gift each year.

Sustaining giving benefits the diocese by reducing the costs associated with mailings, postage, processing and administrative fees. These funds can instead be directed to our ministries, allowing them to help more people in Faith Formation, our seminarians and the children in our Catholic Schools. They all count on us for our support.

How does sustaining giving work?

When you select 'sustaining gift' online at dsj.org/ada or on your pledge card, you are committing to making a gift every month through your checking account or debit or credit card. More importantly, you are making a difference every month! You can adjust the amount of your recurring gift as well as cancel it at any time.

Join our sustaining giving program today to help our friends and neighbors in need. Our ministries thank you!

*Diocese of
San Jose*

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KIDS CORNER

READ THE
GOSPEL AND
COLOR THE
IMAGE.

SHARING THE GOSPEL

Ever since the night Moses led the Israelites out of slavery in Egypt, God's people remembered that special night with the Passover meal. They ate flat bread, just as the Israelites did the night they left Egypt. They drank wine, remembering the lamb's blood that saved the Israelites from the Angel of Death. Jesus ate the Passover meal with his disciples. As they ate, Jesus taught his disciples that, under God's new agreement, his own body and blood would save them.

PRAYER

Dear God, help me to be truly thankful for the way Jesus gave up his own body and blood to save me from my sins. Amen.

MISSION FOR THE WEEK

Using the concordance found at the back of your Bible, look up the word "Passover." As a family, write down the verses, find them in your Bible, and read them out loud. Sometimes Jesus is referred to as the Lamb of God, or the Lamb sacrificed for our sins. Talk about how Jesus took our sins away when he died on the cross.



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Then he took a cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them, and they all drank from it. He said to them, "This is my blood of the covenant, which will be shed for many. Amen, I say to you, I shall not drink again the fruit of the vine until the day when I drink it new in the kingdom of God."

- Mk 14:23-25

Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass
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LITURGICAL LIFE

QUESTIONS OF THE WEEK

Invite Parishioners to Reflect and Respond to Scripture

First Reading:

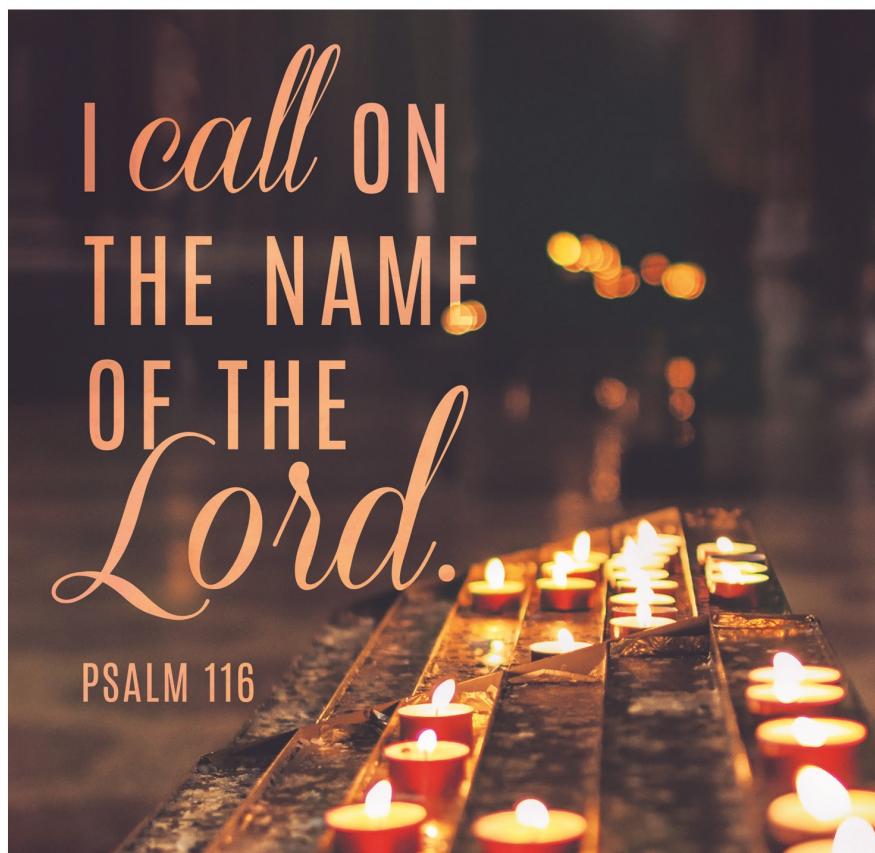
Moses and the ancient Israelites ratified the covenant God established with them at Mount Sinai with the blood of a sacrificed animal. The sacrificed animal affirmed Israel's commitment: "We will do everything the Lord has told us." Why do you think Israel tied sacrificed blood to their verbal commitment?

Second Reading:

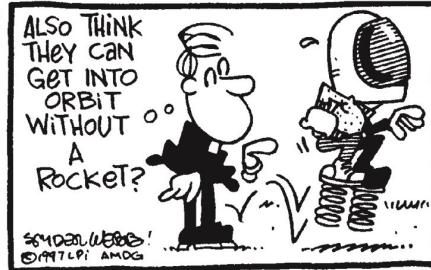
The author of Hebrews teaches us that the sacrificed blood of Christ sanctifies us and offers us eternal redemption. How do you see this connected to ancient Israel's practice of sacrificing animals for their blood?

Gospel:

Mark's account of the institution of the Eucharist is linked to the Jewish Feast of Unleavened Bread when a Passover lamb was sacrificed. What do you think Mark is teaching us in making this connection?



THE BODY AND BLOOD OF CHRIST

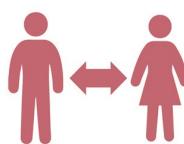


LITURGICAL LIFE

3 EASY STEPS

To Keeping Yourself & Others Healthy!

We are cautioned to be especially careful during the Coronavirus outbreak. Here are some simple ways to keep sickness away.



Wash Your Hands

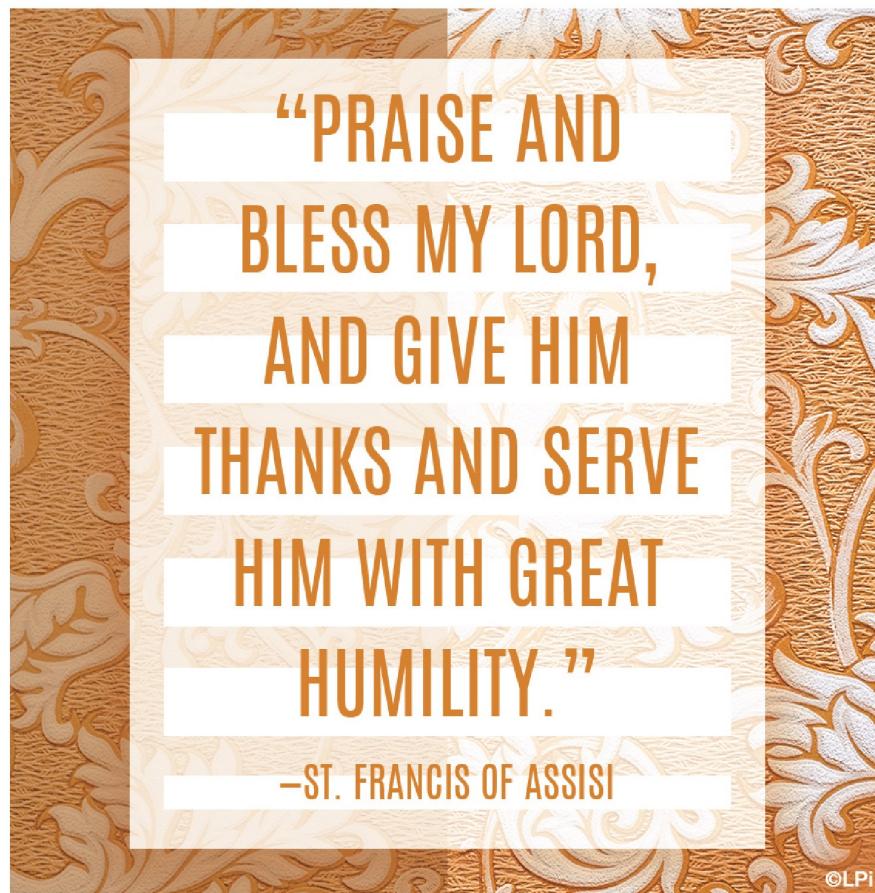
Wash your hands for at least 20 seconds using soap and water. If you can't wash your hands, use hand sanitizer frequently.

Don't Touch Your Face

Especially around the eyes, nose and mouth. If you must sneeze, use a tissue or your arm.

Keep Your Distance

Practice social distancing during this epidemic and stay away from large groups. Instead, call, email or check up on family and friends using social media.



While they were eating, he took bread, said the blessing, broke it, gave it to them, and said, “Take it; this is my body.” Then he took a cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them, and they all drank from it. He said to them, “This is my blood of the covenant, which will be shed for many.”

- Mk 14:22-24

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

LITURGICAL LIFE

RESPONDING to the *Call*

EVERYDAY STEWARDSHIP

Recognize God In Your Ordinary Moments

We Can Prepare the Upper Room

We all know that person, don't we? Hey, maybe we've even been that person.

"I have a great relationship with God, but I don't go to church regularly. God and I are on good terms. I can talk to Him just fine on my own."

There isn't anything false in these statements. It's important to have an intimate, even conversational prayer relationship with God. But the problem with this attitude is that it implies that churches don't matter. Community worship doesn't matter. Today, we are reminded exactly why that is so untrue. Why we need our parishes, our priests, and each other.

The Body and Blood of Christ — that's what it's all about. If it's not about that, it's not about anything. If we don't have the Eucharist, we're just like the ancient priests, making sacrifices that don't have the power to redeem anybody.

Where do we receive the Body and Blood of Christ? For most of us, it's in our parishes. The altar of sacrifice is also the table we gather in front of, as a family, to become one with Christ in the truest and realest way possible, recreating the scene in the Upper Room over and over again every time Mass is celebrated.

The disciples were commissioned by Christ to prepare the Upper Room for the Last Supper. How can we take up that work ourselves? How can we strengthen the bonds in our spiritual family? How can we serve our parish, always remembering that the table is not meant to be set only for two?

— Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS

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WHY DO WE DO THAT?

Catholic Life Explained:

Question:

Why are some saints honored as "patron saints"?

Answer:

Each person is unique and each of us has different gifts, interests, talents, and, yes, even struggles and areas where we need to grow. This is no less true of those holy women, men, and children who have been canonized or beatified.

Because we believe that the saints and blessed are both models of faith and intercessors, Christians have looked to certain holy people as role models and heavenly protectors for occupations, spiritual charisms, and even places. Although the Church sometimes names a person as a patron saint (e.g. Saint Philip Neri as the patron of Rome, Saint Clare of Assisi as the patroness of television, or Saint Aloysius Gonzaga as the patron of youth and young adults), more often it is popular devotion that inspires lay Christians to turn to a particular saint or blessed for heavenly help and support. This is how, for example, Saint Cecilia came to be honored as the patroness of musicians, Saint Toribio Romo as patron of migrants coming into the United States, and Saint Gertrude of Nivelles as patroness of cat lovers. Although there are official and unofficial lists of patron saints, we should always feel free to ask any and all the saints to give us their patronage and protection in whatever it is that we need.

July 17 SATURDAY

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The St. Clare C P

The Mystics

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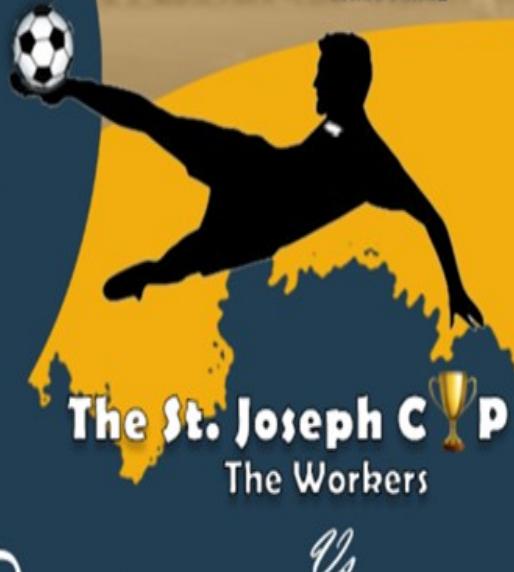
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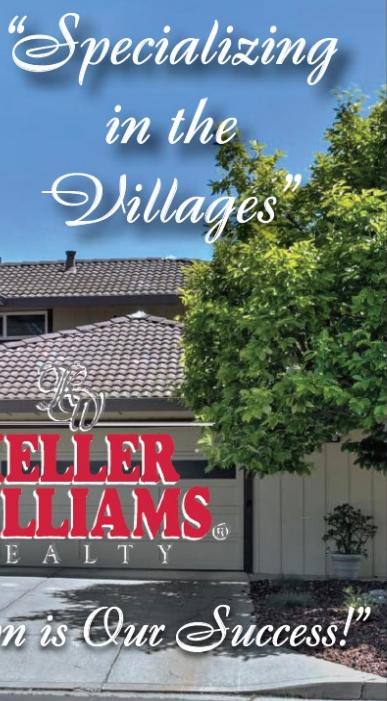
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