

St. Cornelius Parish



SUNDAY BULLETIN

June 22, 2025

SOLEMNITY OF THE MOST HOLY BODY AND BLOOD OF CHRIST

FOR MY FLESH IS TRUE FOOD
AND MY BLOOD IS TRUE DRINK



160 Ridge Rd, Chadds Ford, PA 19317

Phone: (610) 459-2502 • Fax: (610) 459-3942

Web: www.saintcornelius.org

Email: stcorn1@comcast.net • Facebook: Like us on Facebook

Msgr. David Diamond, Pastor

Deacons: Harry Morris • John Todor (Ret.)

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Franca Felcher

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Office Manager: Douglas Kitson

Parish Religious Education Program: Abbie McCusker

Director of Music: Margie Melchior

Directors of Parish Services: Thomas Bosch & Kelly Limmina

St. Cornelius Early Learning Center

Abbie McCusker, Director

Phone: (610) 459-8663

Website: www.scornelius.org

St. Cornelius Parish Summer Office Hours

Monday thru Thursday 8:00 am to 2:00 pm

Friday 8:00 am to 12:00 pm Noon

closed for Lunch 12:00 pm to 1:00 pm

Saturday: Confessions 2:30 - 3:30 Vigil Mass 4:00 pm

Sunday: 7:30 am, 9:00 am, 11:00 am, 4:00 pm **Weekday Mass: 7:30 am**

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament: Will return after Labor Day

LiveStream <https://vimeo.com/user123448673>

Thoughts from the Second Floor Front The Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ

Corpus Christi
June 22, 2025

The focus of today's feast is an essential element in the life of a disciple – The Most Holy Eucharist. There is a story told of Flannery O'Connor who was in Manhattan attending a cocktail party while she was making the rounds on a book tour for her latest collection of short stories. The hostess, a pompous person with an air of superiority, engaged O'Connor in conversation. In the course of their chat O'Connor, who did not suffer fools or phonies well, was getting more and more exasperated with the woman's declamations about the Catholic Church in general and the Holy Eucharist in particular. At one point the woman said something along the lines that it is more open-minded to think that the Blessed Sacrament of the Altar is a great, wonderful, powerful symbol. To which O'Connor replied: "If it's only a symbol, to hell with it."

O'Connor wasn't rejecting the Eucharist; she was a daily communicant. She was affirming the doctrine of our faith. The Eucharist is not a symbol. The Eucharist is the Body and Blood of the Lord Jesus Christ given to us for spiritual nourishment and strength. Pope St. Pius X who was responsible for establishing the age of reason as the appropriate time to receive our Lord as one's first Holy Communion noted that the Eucharist is not a reward for goodness it is a help along our way.

Countless books and theological treatises have been written about this essential though mysterious and not fully comprehensible part of our faith. St. Thomas Aquinas helps us with the words of the great hymn *O Sacrum Convivium*.

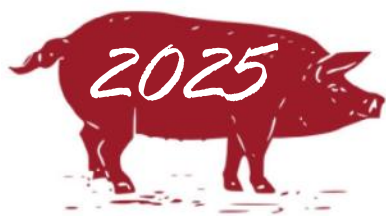
***O sacred banquet in which Christ is received as food,
the memory of his Passion is renewed,
the soul is filled with grace and
a pledge of life to come is given to us.***

The three part teaching in the hymn is that through the Holy Eucharist Jesus provides for us in the present giving us our daily bread, enables us to recall the mystery of our salvation achieved through his sacrificial death for us, and looks to the future not simply made better but splashed in glory. Entering into Holy Communion is as close to the Lord as we are going to get in this lifetime. We are privileged to have the opportunity for such an intense and intimate relationship.

Making a visit to the Blessed Sacrament is a classic part of Catholic Theology. Fortunately, we are able to keep our church open throughout the day and on Saturdays we have regular exposition of the Blessed Sacrament from September through the end of May. When passing the campus of our parish think about pausing sometime and make a visit offering a prayer of thanksgiving for all that God has done for you in His love.

Faithfully,

Msgr. Diamond



JULY

St. Cornelius

31

Pig Roast

Prices rolled back to Pre-Covid Era!

\$25.00 per person • \$ 80.00 per family.

Registrations will soon be taken after all Masses.



Eucharistic Adoration

Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament flows from the sacrifice of the Mass and serves to deepen our hunger for Communion with Christ and the rest of the Church.

Join us for Adoration on Friday mornings after Mass in the chapel. You are welcome to visit anytime during the day until we repose the Blessed Sacrament at 4:00 PM.

**Adoration will return after Labor Day,
September 5, 2025**



REDISCOVER THE LOVE IN YOUR MARRIAGE

Tens of thousands of couples have healed their marriages through Retrouvaille (pronounced Retro-vy). If you know anyone who could benefit from this program, please pass this on. Couples learn to build communication skills and to increase intimacy. It provides help for marriage problems, difficulties or crises. The next program will be held **August 1 - 3, 2025** at the Family Life Center in Malvern, PA. For more information, or to register, visit www.HelpOurMarriage.org or call 215-766-3944 or 800-470-2230.

All inquiries are strictly confidential.

Did you realize St. Cornelius has a Facebook page?



Like us on Facebook to stay up to date with information about upcoming events, how you can become active on committees, and other parish news.

Welcome to the Matthew XXV Garden Season 5 Matthew XXV

A FEW GOOD MEN NEEDED:

We would like to form a small group of volunteers who would take turns mowing the grass in the Matthew XXV Garden.

If interested please TEXT Steve Muntz at 610-454-8937 and he will be happy to fill you in with what needs to be done.

Again, thank you,

Matthew XXV Committee

Laurie, JoEllen, Steve, & Regina



An Invitation from Archbishop Pérez

On January 5, the Feast of St. John Neumann, Fourth Bishop of Philadelphia, Archbishop Nelson J. Pérez released a pastoral letter, at the core of which is a call to a *pastoral change of heart, a conversion to the life-style and mindset of a missionary disciple*. The letter also shares with us the Archbishop's vision for the future of the Church of Philadelphia and invitation to all Catholics to be a part of the conversation about what that will look like.

To read the letter, watch the Archbishop's video and sign up for a consultation session, visit trustandhope.org or scan the QR code with your smart phone.



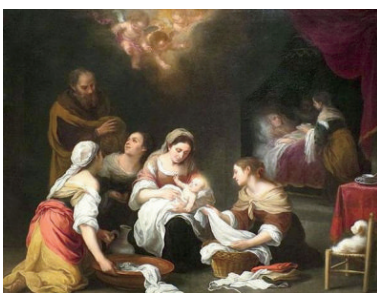
IN COMMUNION WITH OUR SAINTS

The Nativity of St. John the Baptist June 24

This great religious reformer was sent by God to prepare the people for the Messiah. His vocation was one of selfless giving. The only power that he claimed was the Spirit of God. *"I am baptizing you with water, for repentance, but the one who is coming after me is mightier than I. I am not worthy to carry his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire"* (Matthew 3:11).

Scripture tells us that many people followed John looking to him for hope, perhaps in anticipation of some great messianic power. John never allowed himself the false honor of receiving these people for his own glory. He knew his calling was one of preparation. When the time came, he led his disciples to Jesus: "The next day John was there again with two of his disciples, and as he watched Jesus walk by; he said, 'Behold, the Lamb of God.' The two disciples heard what he said and followed Jesus" (John 1:35-37).

It is John the Baptist who has pointed the way to Christ. John's life and death were a giving over of self for God and other people. His simple style of life was one of complete detachment from earthly possessions. His heart was centered on God and the call that he heard from the Spirit of God speaking to his heart. Confident of God's grace, he had the courage to speak words of condemnation or repentance, of salvation.



Holy Hour - Join Us!

Monday, July 7, 8:00 am

After the 7:30 Mass, the Pro-Life Group is hosting a Holy Hour. We will pray a rosary for the unborn, and an end to abortion. We will also pray the Miraculous Medal Novena for the unborn. There will be time for silent prayer. The hour will close at approximately 9:00 am.



Look for this event monthly on the first Monday of the month.

THE PARISH CHURCH AND ITS FURNISHINGS Candles

We use candles at every liturgical service as a sign of reverence and festivity. They bring honor to God and joy to our celebration.

At Mass, candles may attend the Cross in the Entrance Procession. The servers who carry them place them on or near the altar or on a side table. Candles may number two, four, or six. A seventh may be lit for Masses with the bishop. They rest in any arrangement suitable to the design of the altar and the sanctuary. They should look nice up there, but they should never obstruct our view of what is placed upon the altar or what takes place around it.

At church dedications, the walls are adorned with four or twelve crosses, each with a holder for a candle. Lighting these candles, especially on the date of the anniversary of its dedication, recalls the solemnity of the Church's origins.

Although the candle that burns by the tabernacle must consist of oil or wax, there are no restrictions about the other candles. Formerly they were pure beeswax. As the church spread to areas where that material was difficult to obtain, we lowered the content to fifty-one percent beeswax, but we no longer require even that. The bishops of a conference may select other materials native to their region. Such candles should dignify the value of the celebration without producing an excess of smoke, illness to worshipers, or stains on the cloths.



Originally, candles proved practical: they gave light and warmth for those gathered to pray. Today we rely on electricity and gas. Still, candles have remained because they offer a natural symbol of the power of God to break darkness and dispel chill. In our homes, candles have also moved from the practical to the symbolic. They cast a romantic spell; they enhance intimacy and vulnerability. We still use them when the electrical power goes out. They subtly remind us that what we call "power" still has its weakness.

Our Church forbids electrical candles except for Masses onboard ships, where regular ones may be scarce. The frail flame of the candle imitates our flickering faith, which burns in honor of God, enhances celebration, and spends itself to light the way for others.

Written by Paul Turner



The Sunday collection is very important for us to maintain our fiscal responsibilities. So, if you are away on a Sunday, *ENJOY*; but remember *YOUR* church.

June 15, 2025

WeShare eGiving	\$7,654.40
Envelope Offering	\$12,978.50
	\$20,632.40



*"For where your treasure is,
there also will your heart be."*

Luke 12:34

33 DAYS OF EUCHARISTIC GLORY

Are you called to make a **bold and unwavering** commitment to Jesus on the **Solemnity of the Most Holy Body and Blood of Jesus Christ?**

On June 22, we will gather together in church to make a Consecration to Our Eucharistic Lord. Many of us have been preparing together for this special day by using Matthew Kelly's videos and/or book, 33 Days to Eucharistic Glory. However, all are welcome to make this sacred commitment to Jesus.



To join us, come to St. Cornelius on June 22 by 12:15. Please consider joining us for the whole trifecta of events, the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass at 11, the Rosary for Life directly after Mass, and the Eucharistic Consecration after the Rosary.

Please email Michelle at virginmaryfiat@gmail.com with any *questions* about the plan for June 22. All are welcome to participate. Isn't it time to fully dedicate your whole existence to Jesus in the Eucharist, the source and summit of our Catholic faith. **Now is the time!**



Baptisms

Baptized in Christ

Killian Clarke

Son of Liam and Anastasia Clarke

James DeLucia

Son of Michael and Kathleen DeLucia

Lincoln Gonzalez

Son of Juan and Rachel Gonzalez

Beau March

Son of Oliver and Hannah March

Let us pray for our newly baptized Christians.



Monsignor's Thursday Email

Msgr. Diamond's weekly Thursday Email is a popular weekly newsletter for our parishioners. Currently there are **over 1,148** people who receive his email each Thursday afternoon. If you would like to be on our distribution list, please call the office at (610) 459-2502 or send your request to be added to our distribution at

Stcorn1@comcast.net.

HEED THE CALL



VOCATION OFFICE FOR
DIOCESAN PRIESTHOOD

Visit our website
WWW.HeedTheCall.org



St. Cornelius Early Learning Center

What a joyful celebration we had at our Early Learning Center for the Pre-K 4 Closing Program and Kindergarten Graduation! Our Pre-K 4 friends proudly took the stage, singing songs, while our Kindergarten graduates beamed with excitement as they received their diplomas. Families filled the room with love and cheers, capturing precious moments and applauding their little ones' accomplishments. It was a beautiful day filled with pride, laughter, and a few happy tears as we celebrated all the growth, learning, and love shared throughout the year.



Helping Hands and Hearts

This ministry offers temporary help (meals, errands, etc.) to individuals and families in need! If you are aware of someone in need or would like to be a volunteer helper, please contact Marilyn Gustin at mgustin05@gmail.com (484) 947-7295.



**YOUNG CATHOLIC
PROFESSIONALS**
Working in Witness for Christ™

In a world that can be void of meaning and leave young adults restless and dissatisfied, Young Catholic Professionals Philadelphia brings together young professionals in their 20s and 30s into a community of belonging, support, and encouragement at all stages of your faith journey. Young Catholic Professionals empowers and equips you to live your Catholic faith through everyday work and to perform all work with excellence for the glory of God.

Our patron saint is Saint Joseph the Worker. Our mission calls upon the intercession of Saint Joseph the Worker, a simple carpenter who reminds us of the importance of stillness, reflection, and prayer.

Young Catholic Professionals mission is to challenge, train, and inspire young adults working in various professional careers to work in witness for Christ. For more information go to our local Philadelphia website at www.ycppphiladelphia.org/cpages/home



**Caring
for Friends™**

Help provide home cooked meals to neighbors in need! Caring for Friends (formerly Aid for Friends) is collecting frozen meals and soups for homebound seniors and food insecure individuals. Meal trays and soup containers can be found in the utility closet on the right of the side door of the narthex. Consider putting aside an extra dinner or soup portion, freeze it and then bring it to the freezer also located in the utility closet. PLEASE sign the meals and soup in on the list attached to the shelves next to the freezer. The food is distributed all over the Greater Philadelphia Area. This effort is ongoing at our parish. We invite you to contribute what you can. If you have questions, please contact Nancy Todor 609-234-1193

CRS NATIONAL SPOTLIGHT



Catholic Relief Services is a manifestation of love for our brothers and sisters around the globe by the Catholic community of the United States. We protect, defend and advance human life around the world by directly meeting basic needs and advocating solutions to injustice. CRS is a pro-life organization dedicated to preserving the sacredness and dignity of human life from conception to natural death. Every



aspect of our work is to help life flourish. We are resolute in our commitment to the Church and its teaching.

As a part of the Universal Church, we work with local Catholic institutions around the world. As a Catholic agency that

provides assistance to people in need in over 100 countries without regard to race, religion or nationality, we also participate in humanitarian initiatives undertaken by a range of groups, including governments, other faith communities and secular institutions. Although some positions and practices of these institutions are not always consistent with the full range of Catholic teaching, CRS' work with these institutions always focuses only on activities that are fully consistent with Catholic teachings.

You can support CRS's mission by making a donation today.

Let us pray for our Men and Women serving in the Armed Forces. Especially for:

SSG Ana Brunal
SPC Mike Canfield
Cpl Michael Castle
Lt. Connor Cleary
Fr. Joseph Coffey (Chaplain)
Maj Robert B. Cusick, Jr.
Capt Joshua deFreitas
SSGT Michael DiVernieri
Cadet Emily Fanning
Lt. Ryan Gallagher
SSG. Eric Gardner
Capt Matthew Gibbons
Ens Patrick Gibbons
Ens John Paul Gibbons
Maj Rachel Gonzalez
SPC Logan Hannum
Sgt Andrew Hart
Devin J. Hunt
PO1 Nathan R. Keller
1st Lt Lauren Kinnee
Sp. Andrew Koehler
Capt Daniel Kohli
Maj. Chris Love
Maj. Megan Love
Sgt Jason Lyons

2nd Lt. Kevin Malone
Sgt Alexander Marlow
PFC Zachary Marlow
CPT. Travis Mauer
Lt. Cmdr Daniel McCadden
Capt Jonathan McGrath
LT Molly K. McGuckin
LCDR Ryan A. McGuckin
Maj. Sean P. Noll
Lt. Col Brian J. O'Shea
Lt. Cmdr Inga O'Shea
Maj James O'Shea
Sgt. Maj. Justin Rogowski
PFC L Roland
LTJG Christian Samulewicz
1st Lt. Olivia Samulewicz
Capt. Neal F. Schubert
Ens Nicholas Spadaccini
MSG Thomas Stone
Cpl Mark Truex
Lt. Christopher Vish
Capt. Aidan Walsh
PFC Ellianna Welsh
Capt Jennifer Wynn

PRAY FOR THOSE WHO ARE ILL AND THOSE WHO CARE FOR THEM

Luzmarina Lalli, Regina Smith, Marianne Leader, Sandy Fecondo, Dominique Copper, Brian Walheim, Bob McKinney, Mindy Tumolo, Angelo Tiberi, Dorothy Brady, James Egner, Joan Carrington, River Agren, Rosemarie Tangi, Kathryn Howland, John Faulkner, Sr., Janice Letourneau, Lorraine Farrugia, Patricia Ackerman, Doris Wysocki, Peyton Lott, Brittany Lott, Ed Lovell, Lillian Corbett, Eileen Kane, David III, C. McCollum, Joshua Gidlewski, Denise Banta, Tom Eno, Diana Duffy, Isaac Burks, Nancy Cunningham, Jay Holland, Thomas Drane, Kara Ulatowski, Harold Von Brockdorff, Mary Helen Arthur, Anne Spetzer, Carolyn Duffy, Carleen Peters, Marian Short, Matthew Hess, Bryan Thompson, Paul Lucas, Carla Santoleri, Richard Meccarrielli, Edward Field, Judy Field, Joyce Monaco, Matthew Hurst, Leonard Smith, Jr., Jim Waters, Kathie Buckley, Bernice & Arthur Hindle, Sean Mulvey, Patricia Wells, Kathy Williams, Michael Gibbons, Ellen Brisgone, Laura O'Brien-Black, Elizabeth Kephart, Tina Landis, Bill & Theresa Sherwin, Michelle Dillione, Chris Roe, Frank Kuders, Dave and Ronnie Pryce, Rosemary Brennan, Ellie May McGrath, Vicki Wojdak, Andrea Bateman, Brandon Heacock, Nancy Young, Billy Lott, Nanci Ehmer, Ken Rudert, Ed Shell, Ellie McCreight, Ellie Griem, Gregory Varacchi, Michael McKinnen, Connie Carney, Luke Post, Jim Buckley, Jerome Lienhard



The Ministry of Consolation

A St. Cornelius community response to the needs of people grieving the death of a significant person/persons in their lives, the ministry honors the words and example of the Lord Jesus:

"Blessed are they who mourn; they shall be consoled"
(Matthew 5:4).

A team of four St. Cornelius church members have been trained to set up and facilitate a Support Group for the Consolation Ministry.

On **July 19, 2025**, the Consolation Group will meet at the **Parish Life Center, Fr. Simon Room** from **2:30pm to 3:30pm**.

Contact Joan Holliday for any questions
dochollisv@aol.com or call (610) 717-2180.



SAINT CORNELIUS

Early Learning Center
ENROLLMENT OPEN FOR THE
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SCHOOL YEAR!

At Saint Cornelius Early Learning Center we are dedicated to educating each child to learn academic and social skills for success in their future. Our energetic teachers and staff create a nurturing, creative and exciting environment for children to learn, grow, and thrive!

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CONTACT US

For more information or to schedule a tour, please email Abigail McCusker at

akohlbrener@scornelius.org

or call the Early Learning Center office at
(610) 459 - 8663.

Theology on Tap

July 8 @ 7 PM

THE
GOAT



Guest Speaker

Father Stephen DeLacy

Vicar for Faith Formation with
Youth and Young Adults for the
Archdiocese of Philadelphia

Welcome to the Parish!



Joseph and Erica Godio and family

Jon and Mary Little and family

Mary Stover

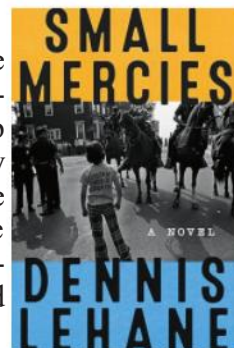
THE ST. CORNELIUS LITERARY SOCIETY

Small Mercies: A Detective Mystery

By Dennis Lehane

A tale of revenge, family love, festering hate, and insidious power, set against one of the most tumultuous episodes in Boston's history.

In the summer of 1974 a heatwave blankets Boston and Mary Pat Fennelly is trying to stay one step ahead of the bill collectors. Mary Pat has lived her entire life in the housing projects of "Southie," the Irish American enclave that stubbornly adheres to old tradition and stands proudly apart.



One night Mary Pat's teenage daughter Jules stays out late and doesn't come home. That same evening, a young Black man is found dead, struck by a subway train under mysterious circumstances.

The two events seem unconnected. But Mary Pat, propelled by a desperate search for her missing daughter, begins turning over stones best left untouched—asking questions that bother Marty Butler, chieftain of the Irish mob, and the men who work for him, men who don't take kindly to any threat to their business.

Set against the hot, tumultuous months when the city's desegregation of its public schools exploded in violence, *Small Mercies* is a superb thriller, a brutal depiction of criminality and power, and an unflinching portrait of the dark heart of American racism. It is a mesmerizing and wrenching work that only Dennis Lehane could write.

Please plan on attending our next meeting this Sunday, July 13th at 2:00 PM.

CAMP CORNELIUS

Location: Saint Cornelius Early Learning Center
160 Ridge Road
Chadds Ford, PA 19317

Cooking
Art

STEM

Sports



*This summer we are excited to bring
four weeks of summer fun!*

Half day: 9:00 am- 12:00 pm

Full day: 9:00 am - 3:00 pm

PreK3 to 2nd grade

Week of July 7th
Week of July 14th



A summer camp experience for children
ages PreK3 through 2nd grade.
Volunteer opportunities available for older
students.

Half Day Camp (9am-12pm)
\$225 per week

Full Day Camp (9am-3pm)
\$365 per week

Before care (8 AM) and After care (until 5 PM)
are available

Questions? Contact:

Director: Debbie Anderson

danderson@scornelius.org / 610-459-8663

Sunday Mass Intentions

- 7:30 AM Deceased members of
the Consorto family
- 9:00 AM Eva Garzia
- 11:00 AM 57th wedding Anniv. Rose & Ed Lovell
- 4:00 PM Intentions of Johnny Blystone

Weekly Mass Schedule (Week of June 23 - June 27)

Saturday Vigil / Sunday Morning

Intention: *Missa pro populo (Mass for the people)*
Reading: Gen 14:18-20; Ps 110:1, 2, 3, 4; 1 Cor
11:23-26; Lk 9:11b-17

Monday 7:30 AM

Intention: Olimpia Tranzilli
Reading: Gen 12:1-9; Ps 33:12-13, 18-19, 20 and
22; Mt 7:1-5

Tuesday 7:30 AM Solemnity of the Nativity of Saint John the Baptist

Intention: Madge McGuigan
Reading: Is 49:1-6; Ps 139:1b-3, 13-14ab, 14c-15;
Acts 13:22-26; Lk 1:57-66, 80

Wednesday 7:30 AM

Intention: Frank Schramski
Reading: Gen 15:1-12, 17-18; Ps 105:1-2, 3-4, 6-7,
8-9; Mt 7:15-20

Thursday 7:30 AM

Intention: Sr. Joanne Bauer
Reading: Gen 16:1-12, 15-16 or Gen 16:6b-12,
15-16; Ps 106:1b-2, 3-4a, 4b-5; Mt 7:21-29

Friday 7:30 AM Solemnity of the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus

Intention: Helen Stillwell
Reading: Ez 34:11-16; Ps 23:1-3a, 3b-4, 5, 6;
Rom 5:5b-11; Lk 15:3-7

PILGRIM STATUE



- 06 - 22 - 2025 Carla Santoleri
06 - 29 - 2025 Lisa Daughen
07 - 06 - 2025 Open

The dates for July 6 to December 28 are
now available on the sign-up.

Call Carla Santoleri at (610) 361-8447
for more information.

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.

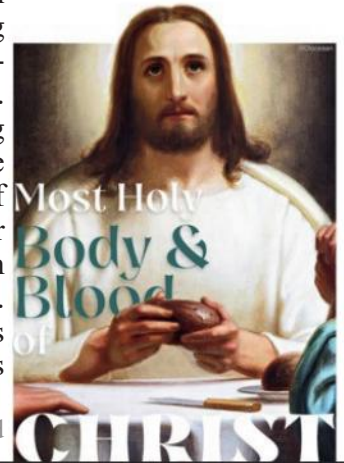
TREASURES FROM OUR TRADITION

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 ac-

cused 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.

—James Field



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RELIGIOUS FREEDOM WEEK

Witnesses to Hope

Religious freedom allows the Church, and all religious communities, to live out their faith in public and to serve the good of all. Beginning June 22, the feast of Sts. Thomas More and John Fisher, the USCCB invites Catholics to **pray, reflect, and act** to promote religious freedom.



June 22 Political Polarization

***Pray** that Catholics will have the courage to put the truth of the gospel and fidelity to the Church above partisan politics.*



June 23 IVF Madness

***Pray** for couples who suffer fertility challenges, and that political leaders would promote therapies that respect the dignity of all human persons.*



June 24 Catholic Healthcare

***Pray** that governments will respect the consciences of all people who care for the sick and vulnerable.*



June 25 Nicaragua

***Pray** for Christians in Nicaragua, where the Catholic Church faces brutal government persecution.*



June 26 Parental Choice in Education

***Pray** that governments would strengthen the ability for parents to direct the education of their children.*



June 27 Immigration Services

***Pray** that the Lord would protect vulnerable migrants and refugees, and that the Church enjoy the freedom to carry out the ministries that Christ has handed to her.*



June 28 Freedom to Serve the Common Good

***Pray** that government leaders would recognize the contributions that religious charities make to the common good.*



June 29 Nigeria

***Pray** for our brothers and sisters in Nigeria who are suffering violent religious conflict.*

More information can be found at www.usccb.org/committees/religious-liberty/religious-freedom-week or by using the QR Code with your smart phone

