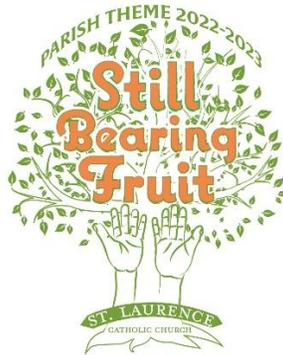


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***Planted in the house of the LORD, they shall flourish in the courts of our God.
They shall bear fruit even in old age, they will stay fresh and green.***
(Psalm 92: 14-15)

Meeting Agenda

Opening Prayer

A Prayer to Bear Good Fruit

*Lord, I love You and I give my life to You.
I pray that I may be planted in the fertile soil
of Your abundant love and mercy.
Help me to be nourished by the life of grace
You have lavished upon me and,
as I grow in holiness,
bring forth an abundance of good fruit in my life.
Jesus, I trust in You.
Amen.*

<https://catholic-daily-reflections.com/2019/03/02/bearing-good-fruit>

Elementary Faith Formation Overview

Contacts: **Joan Hastreiter**, Elementary Faith Formation Coordinator, jhastreiter@stlaurence.org
 Lisa Feighery, Elementary Assistant Coordinator, lfeighery@stlaurence.org
 Molly Zimmer, Elementary Assistant, mzimmer@stlaurence.org

- **Partnership**
- **Registration & Placement**
 - *Annual Registration* opens April 1st and ends August 1st covering classes from Sept thru the first week of May of each year. This is also the deadline for First Sacraments registration each year.

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- *Classes filled on first come-first served basis* as indicated by parents on what day/time they wish children to attend CCE
- **Separation of First Sacraments** (Ms. Melissa Calcote) **and systematic grade-level faith formation (CCE)**
 - See <https://stlaurence.org/first-sacraments> on the St. Laurence website for details and the annual calendar
 - Registration for Faith Formation (CCE) and First Sacraments is *separate* – Deadline of August 1st each year
 - The First Sacraments program has separate requirements, schedules, fees, etc. from Elementary Faith Formation (CCE)
- **Safety**
 - Safe Environment <https://cmgconnect.org/>
 - VOLUNTEERS needed! ***Epecially substitutes*** to assist or lead in class when assigned facilitators must be out for personal or work commitments. Please consider preparing yourself by taking the Safe Haven training if for nothing other than being well informed on how to better protect your own children.
- **Policies/Procedures**
 - [Elementary CCE Class Calendar](#) (handout)
 - [Arrival/Dismissal](#) (handout)
 - [Expectations and Conduct Policy](#) (handout)
 - [Attendance/Makeups](#) (handout)
 - [Prayers and Practices by Age](#) (handout)
 - Elementary Faith Formation (CCE) specific Updates, Notices & Cancellations can be found at <https://stlaurence.org/elementary-cce>
- **Questions/Answers.** Also refer to the *Religious Education and Faith Formation Handbook* under DOCUMENTS at <https://stlaurence.org/education>, or contact Joan Hastreiter/Lisa Feighery

Formation

Transubstantiation – the idea that during Mass, the bread and wine used for Communion become the body and blood of Jesus Christ – *is central to the Catholic faith*. Indeed, the Catholic Church teaches that “the Eucharist is the Source of Summit of the Christian life.” (CCC 1324)

The Catechism of the Catholic Church goes on to say that “the other sacraments, and indeed all ecclesiastical ministries and works of the apostolate, are bound up with the

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Eucharist and are oriented toward it. For in the blessed Eucharist is contained the whole spiritual good of the Church, namely Christ himself, our Pasch.”

A recent *Pew Research Survey* conducted in February 2019 found:

- That most self-described Catholics don’t believe this core teaching. In fact, nearly seven-in-ten Catholics (69%) say they personally believe that during Catholic Mass, the bread and wine used in Communion “are *symbols* of the body and blood of Jesus Christ.” Just one-third of U.S. Catholics (31%) say they believe that “during Catholic Mass, the bread and wine actually become the body and blood of Jesus.”
- The survey included a question that tested whether Catholics *know* what the church teaches on the subject. Most Catholics who believe that the bread and wine are symbolic *do not know that the church holds that transubstantiation occurs*. Overall, **43% of Catholics believe that the bread and wine are symbolic and also that this reflects the position of the church**. Still, one-in-five Catholics (22%) reject the idea of transubstantiation, even though they know about the church’s teaching.
- The vast majority of those who believe that the bread and wine actually become the body and blood of Christ – 28% of all Catholics – do know that this is what the church teaches.

Seven-in-ten U.S. Catholics believe bread, wine used in Communion are symbolic

% of U.S. Catholics who ...



Note: Figures may not add to 100% or to subtotals indicated due to rounding.

Source: Survey conducted Feb. 4-19, 2019, among U.S. adults.

PEW RESEARCH CENTER

<https://www.pewresearch.org/fact-tank/2019/08/05/transubstantiation-eucharist-u-s-catholics/>

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Belief in the Real Presence distinguishes us from many other Christian traditions. The *earliest* Christians and Church Fathers believed in the Real Presence as denoted in the some of the recorded teachings found in:

- **Holy Scripture** (1 Cor 10:16-17, 1 Cor 11: 23-27) – Letters of St. Paul to the early Church
- **The Didache:** "The Teaching of the Twelve Apostles" is a manuscript which was used by 2nd century bishops and priests for the instruction of catechumens
- **St. Justin Martyr:** St. Justin Martyr was born a pagan but converted to Christianity after studying philosophy. He was a prolific writer and many Church scholars consider him the greatest apologist or defender of the faith from the 2nd century. He was beheaded with six of his companions some time between 163 and 167 A.D.
- **Many others:** <http://www.therealpresence.org/eucharst/father/a5.html>

Where do we go from here??

- **National Eucharistic Revival** – A three-year movement within the Church officially launched by the USCCB (United States Conference on Catholic Bishops) on Corpus Christi Sunday 2022 (June 19th)
 - Based upon John 6:51: "*My Flesh for the Life of the World*"
- **Revival Is in the Air - An Exciting Journey Ahead**

Our world is hurting. We all need healing, yet many of us are separated from the very source of our strength. Jesus Christ invites us to return to the source and summit of our faith: his Real Presence in the Eucharist. The National Eucharistic Revival is a movement to restore understanding and devotion to this great mystery here in the United States.
- **Mission and Vision of the National Eucharistic Revival**

Mission: To renew the Church by enkindling a living relationship with the Lord Jesus Christ in the Holy Eucharist.

Vision: A *movement* of Catholics across the United States, healed, converted, formed and unified by an encounter with Jesus in the Eucharist – and sent out "in mission for the life of the world."

Reflection Activity

WATCH VIDEO: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hDNZeBtCjic&t=87s>

Instructions:

Part 1

After watching the short video, take some time to consider the following questions:

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- Do I believe in the core Church teaching about the Real Presence of Christ – body, blood, soul and divinity – in the Holy Eucharist? Why or why not?
- If not, why do I think that is? More particularly, what issue or part of this core teaching do I not believe or need more information about to better understand?
- How does my interior disposition towards (i.e. my mindset or preparation beforehand) or my outward reception of (i.e. how I approach) the Holy Eucharist affect my belief?
- What can I do to more closely align myself to the presence of Jesus in the Holy Eucharist?

Turn to a neighbor or partner and share your reflections, time permitting.

Part 2: Homework

- Above, we learned that the mission and vision of the *Eucharistic Revival* launched by the US Conference of Catholic Bishops (which will culminate in July 2024 with a *National Eucharistic Conference* in Indianapolis, IN) are as follows:

Mission: To renew the Church by enkindling a living relationship with the Lord Jesus Christ in the Holy Eucharist.

Vision: A *movement* of Catholics across the United States, healed, converted, formed and unified by an encounter with Jesus in the Eucharist – and sent out “in mission for the life of the world.”

For your ‘homework,’ review some of the resources below and come up with a plan to achieve the following:

- How can I intentionally enkindle or re-enkindle my *own* relationship with the Lord in the Holy Eucharist?
- What can I do to serve the mission of the Church by bringing others to Christ?

Resources to Consider:

<https://www.usccb.org/resources/welcome-national-eucharistic-revival>

<https://www.eucharisticrevival.org/learn-resources>

<https://www.eucharisticrevival.org/video-content-sign-up> (Sign up for FREE ACCESS to a library of video content on the Eucharist)

Quotes of the Saints about the Holy Eucharist:

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St. Augustine: "What you see is the bread and the chalice; that is what your own eyes report to you. But what your faith obliges you to accept is that the bread is the body of Christ, and the chalice is the blood of Christ. This has been said very briefly, which may perhaps be sufficient for faith; yet faith does not desire instruction." (354-430 AD)

St. Cyril of Jerusalem: "Since Christ Himself has said, 'This is My Body,' who shall dare to doubt that it is His Body?" (313-386 AD)

St. John Chrysostom: "It is not the man who is responsible for the offerings as they become Christ's Body and Blood; it is Christ Himself who was crucified for us. The standing figure belongs to the priest who speaks these words. The power and the grace belong to God. 'This is My Body,' he says. And these words transform the offerings." (Died 407 AD)

Closing Prayer

The Eucharist in the Life of the Church

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

We recall that the Church's life flows from the Eucharist and returns to it.

They devoted themselves to the teaching of the apostles and to the communal life, to the breaking of the bread and to the prayers.

ACTS 2:42

A brief period of silence is observed.

V. Taste and see that the LORD is good.
R. Blessed the man who seeks refuge in him.

Concluding Prayer

O God, who in this wonderful Sacrament
have left us a memorial of your Passion,
grant us, we pray,
So, to revere the sacred mysteries of your Body and Blood
that we may always experience in ourselves
the fruits of your redemption.
Who live and reign with God the Father
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
God, for ever and ever.
Jesus, Lord of the Church, grant that by partaking of your Body and Blood
we may become one body and one spirit in you.
Amen.

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<https://www.usccb.org/resources/Novena-Corpus-Christi-eng.pdf>

Resources:

- **Catechism of the Catholic Church (online version)**
<https://www.usccb.org/sites/default/files/flipbooks/catechism/>
- **Articles:**
Just One-Third of U.S. Catholics Agree with the Church that Eucharist is Body, Blood of Christ
<https://www.pewresearch.org/fact-tank/2019/08/05/transubstantiation-eucharist-u-s-catholics/>
The Source and Summit of Christian Life
<https://catholiclife.diolc.org/2022/04/19/the-source-and-summit-of-christian-life/>
Inspiring Words from the Saints About the Eucharist
<https://www.ncregister.com/cna/corpus-christi-sunday-2022-inspiring-words-from-the-saints-about-the-eucharist>
- **National Eucharistic Revival** (The Revival is a grassroots movement of Catholics, each responding to the gift of the Eucharist in their own way. This page is home to free educational and inspirational content to help you learn more about the reality of Jesus in the Eucharist and fall more deeply in love with him. We will expand this section as more resources become available. Includes both video content and coursework on Exploring Eucharistic Teaching and how to embrace the gift of the Eucharist)
<https://www.eucharisticrevival.org/learn-resources>
- **Videos:**
National Eucharistic Revival
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hDNZeBtCjjc&t=87s> (1:34)
Bishop Barron on the Real Presence of Jesus in the Eucharist
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bJjW3LXuHzo&t=110s> (11:03)
The Shocking Reality of the Eucharist
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UQPTfyxZLKI> (8:25)
What the Early Church Believed About the Eucharist (13:36)
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JbqxxPtjtw0>
The Veil Removed: Explained
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SeCcOZWf0c> (7:33)
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PNI4u6WtROU> (Eucharistic Revival 2022-2023, 9:17)
- **Prayers:**
Corpus Christi Novena
<https://www.usccb.org/resources/Novena-Corpus-Christi-eng.pdf>
Secrets of the Saints: Five Powerful Prayers to Jesus in the Eucharist
<https://www.churchpop.com/2017/06/17/5-powerful-prayers-to-jesus-in-the-eucharist-from-the-saints/>
Adoremus: Holy Eucharist Prayers
<https://adoremus.org/2007/12/holy-eucharist-prayers/>
- **Adoration:**
Eucharistic Adoration: Finding Jesus in His Sacrament of Love

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<https://www.sfcatholic.org/bishopsbulletin/eucharistic-adoration-finding-jesus-in-his-sacrament-of-love/>

What do we do in Adoration? (Video)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mbyMeNPddBs>

How Jesus Won My Heart in Eucharistic Adoration

<https://blessedisshen.net/blog/jesus-won-heart-eucharistic-adoration/>

- **Saints Devoted to the Eucharist**

Eucharistic Saints

<https://www.thepriest.com/2022/04/18/eucharistic-saints/#:~:text=Herein%20is%20a%20discussion%20of,John%20Paul%20II.>

Six Saints' Devotion to the Eucharist

<https://catholicexchange.com/six-saints-devotion-to-the-eucharist/>

Blessed Carlo Acutis

<https://carloacutis-en.org/>

Blessed Carlo Acutis: Ten Things You Should Know About Him

<https://www.catholicnewsagency.com/news/46048/who-was-carlo-acutis-a-cna-explainer>

The Lives of the Saints: Episode 16 – Saints That Teach Us About the Eucharist

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Wh4WV0dSNZ4> (10:50)

- **Eucharistic Miracles**

<http://www.miracolieucaistici.org/en/liste/list.html> (Catalogue of Eucharist Miracles Around the World)

<https://media.ascensionpress.com/2021/11/03/the-amazing-science-of-recent-eucharistic-miracles-a-message-from-heaven/> (The Science of Recent Eucharistic Miracles)