



CORPUS CHRISTI SUNDAY

June 22, 2025

Dear Beloved Parishioners!

This weekend we celebrate a second great solemnity in Ordinary Time, namely: Solemnity of the Body and Blood of Christ, commonly called *Corpus Christi* or The Body of Christ Sunday. On this day the Church commemorates the great gift of the Eucharist; the body, blood, soul and divinity of Jesus Christ that was given to us for the first time at the Last Supper, and then is given to us every time the Mass is celebrated throughout the world.

This great Feast reminds us of three things:

1. **Jesus' victory over sin and death through his body and blood:** A victorious Abraham meets Melchizedek, the priest of the Most High God, who makes an offering of bread and wine to Abraham. The Church sees Melchizedek as symbol of Jesus, high priest of the New Covenant in his own Blood.
2. **Jesus' continued presence among us:** Between the events of the passion, death and resurrection in the past, the Lord's return in glory in the future, we have the real presence of Jesus in the form of bread and wine during the celebration of the Eucharist as well as in the blessed sacrament.
3. **Jesus' ability to satisfy the deepest longings of the human heart:** The miracle of feeding of the five thousand is placed in the context of Jesus' ministry of preaching and healing. This miracle proclaims the power of God who heals people of their limited understanding of the nature of God's kingdom, which overflows with abundance. It is capable of meeting innumerable needs of the people.

St. Cyprian of Carthage, a Church Father in the 3rd Century, who was a great witness to the Church's living tradition in Egypt and in Alexandria wrote of Melchizedek and the mystery of the Eucharist:

"...in the priest Melchizedek, we see the sacrament of the sacrifice of the Lord prefigured according to what the divine Scripture testifies and says: "And Melchizedek, the king of Salem, brought out bread and wine, for he was a priest of the Most High God, and he blessed Abraham." [Gen 14:18]... For who is more a priest of the Most High God than our Lord Jesus Christ, who offered sacrifice to God the Father and offered the very same thing that Melchizedek had offered, bread and wine, that is, actually, his body and blood?" (Cyprian of Carthage, Letters 63.4).

May the celebration of this great Feast help us to appreciate the real presence of Jesus in the Eucharist.

God Bless you all!

Fr. Albert and Msgr. Mike