



## FROM OUR DIRECTOR OF FAITH FORMATION

**May 28, 2023**

### **Corpus Christi 2023**

"We interrupt your regularly scheduled programming..."

For those of you who have been following these bulletin columns, you'll notice that I began a series on logic and debate a couple of weeks ago. I promise we will return to it, but in the meantime, the feast of Corpus Christi is only a few weeks away and we have things to talk about.

Corpus Christi (Latin for "Body of Christ") is the annual feast of the Church in which we celebrate Our Lord's institution of the Eucharist. At the Parish of the Holy Eucharist, it is an even bigger deal since it is our parish feast day.

Frequently articles on Corpus Christi focus on the real presence of Christ in the Eucharist. In this series, I am going to briefly state it and then take it for granted that my readers are good Catholics and believe what the Church believes: at the moment of consecration, ordinary bread ceases to be bread at all and becomes 100% the body, blood, soul, and divinity of Jesus Christ, God made man. The same is true at the consecration of the wine. It is Him, whole and entire, in everything but appearance.

If you have questions about that part, I'm certainly happy to talk about it ([pothe.faithformation@portlanddiocese.org](mailto:pothe.faithformation@portlanddiocese.org)) But there's so much more to be said than simply that He is really present.

So let's say you're on board so far. "Yes, I believe that at the words of the priest, Our Lord Jesus Christ really and truly descends from heaven and takes flesh before my eyes on the altar." Excellent. Now let's follow out the implications. If bread is really changed into Jesus Christ, it never changes back. There are no words of the priest that can reverse the process. And so when the Eucharist is put in the tabernacle, that becomes His home.

In the humble appearance Our Lord has chosen to assume, He stays in that tabernacle day and night. He does not get and leave, go for a stretch break, walk around, He waits there within the walls of the tabernacle. He is God; He could have chosen otherwise, but He has chosen this. Why? What is He waiting for? He is waiting for you.

-Joe Moreshead