

August 22, 2021



CHURCH OF THE
BLESSED SACRAMENT

Master, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life.

JN 6:68

21ST SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

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2119 Stillwater Ave E St. Paul, MN 55119 651-738-0677 church@blessedsacramentsp.org
Mass Times: Saturday Anticipatory: 4 pm Sunday: 8:30 am & 11 :00 am Daily, T-F 8:30am

Church of the Blessed Sacrament

Holy Eucharist – the Source and Summit of our life.

“Master, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life. We have come to believe and are convinced that you are the Holy One of God.” (John 6:69)

EUCHARIST: TAKEN, BLESSED, BROKEN, SHARED Mt. 26:26-29

On the night before Jesus died, Jesus took bread, said the blessing, broke the bread and gave it to His disciples saying, “Take this, all of you, and eat it.” These words, recounting the events of the Last Supper, are repeated in every celebration of the Eucharist as we recall again the words of institution: “This is My body. . . this is My blood.” In this reflection on the Eucharist, I invite you to reflect upon these four actions, “taken, blessed, broken and shared.”

Taken: From the very moment of our birth, even from before our birth, we have been chosen by God. As we read in the book of the prophet Isaiah, “Thus says the Lord who made you, your help, who formed you from the womb: Fear not, O Jacob, my servant, the darling whom I have chosen.” Isaiah 44:1-3. As we mentioned in earlier reflections, you are holy, not because of any righteous deed which you have performed but simply by virtue of the fact that you have been set apart, chosen by God for all eternity to fulfill His designs and purposes. Before this very mystery of being chosen, we humbly say in response, “Amen.” **Blessed:** In Latin, the word for blessed is *benedictus* – “well spoken.” What are the things which God the Father speaks about His son Jesus? “This is My beloved Son in whom I am well pleased.” (Mt. 3:17, 17:5). Because your very self is hidden in Christ, God the Father speaks the very same words about you: “beloved. . . pleasing.” Jeremiah 31:20 – Is Emphraim my dear son? Is he the child I delight in? As often as I speak against him I still remember him. Therefore, I am deeply moved for him; I will surely have mercy on him, says the Lord.” So often we feel we are under a “curse,” or life is not fair, or life doesn’t work for us, nothing good comes our way. Such thinking does come from the evil one who does not want you to know the truth of your innermost being. Allow the Lord to take delight in you! After receiving blessings from the Lord, be a blessing to others we encounter today. **Broken:** How many times do we place the sign of the cross on our body in a day? Perhaps many times a day! Here we proclaim the fact that we are disciples of the Lord, and the Lord Himself has said, “If you wish to be My disciple, you must take up your cross and follow Me.” The Eucharist can infuse in our hearts a supernatural love which can actually make our crosses a source of joy in our life. May the Eucharist allow those sacrifices to become moments of joy for us and enable us to be broken and shared for others. **Shared:** By partaking in the holy Eucharist, we are called to be generous, and compassionate, sharing not only what we have, but sharing ourselves.

The Eucharist is at the very heart of the life of the Catholic and devotion to the Eucharist is the key to spiritual progress. Devotion to the Eucharist always begins with the celebration of the Mass. The Eucharistic celebration, Mass, is always there for us. Always present. Every hour of the day, somewhere in the world, the re-presentation of Calvary, which is the Mass, is celebrated by a human being called a priest – in persona Christi, acting in the person of Christ. And by the words and actions of the Consecration the bread and wine become the Body and Blood of Christ. Jesus in the Holy Eucharist is Alive and real. He allows us to consume Him! And to think we have the privilege of being there! Every day! Yes, every day we can (that is, are allowed, truly invited to) participate in the Mass. If we love our Lord, going to see Him should be a pleasure! Participating in, not just “attending” Mass, is a privilege for the person who wishes to become closer to our Lord. Going to the boss’s house for dinner can be an “obligation” to fulfill (or risk not getting that hoped for promotion or a raise). Going to our

divine Boss’s house for the Eucharistic meal should be enthusiastically looked forward to, wholeheartedly desired, and properly prepared for. That preparation includes the required one hour fasting from foods and beverages other than water, being in a state of Grace with no mortal sin on one’s soul, dressing in one’s “good clothes” (not blue jeans, low cut tops or shorts), and filling one’s heart and soul with thoughts of Who one is about to receive.



Attending weekday Mass—Monday through Saturday—should be a

goal for those wishing to grow in faith. If it is possible to attend Mass daily, but one is not yet in that habit, a good way to begin is to make a good effort to add one or two extra weekday Masses, increasing the frequency as one is able to do so. During Lent one is always amazed at how attendance grows and is an indication that many more are able to participate in weekday Mass than do so on a year-round basis. For those whose schedule just does not allow for daily Mass participation, a visit—whether five minutes or fifty—to the Blessed Sacrament is nearly always possible. Just stopping by to “say hello” to Our Lord, allows us to acknowledge His Presence in the Eucharist.

Another tremendous opportunity for coming ever closer to our Lord is to make a holy hour in those wonderful chapels and churches where Eucharistic Adoration is held, including our beautiful adoration chapel at our parish. New adorers often ask, what should I do there, for an entire hour? The simplest answer is: Adore! One story goes like this, St. John Vianney observed a local citizen making frequent visits to the Blessed Sacrament. When he asked the man what he did there, the man replied, “I look at Him, and He looks at me.” Remember, when we are in front of the Blessed Sacrament, we are in front of Christ Himself! We are as close to Him as when He walked the earth. And we can speak with Him and listen to Him just as the disciples could do 2000 years ago.

In the spiritual life, one is never static. One either goes forward or backs away from Our Lord by not progressing in our spiritual life. Jesus is waiting! Come to Him. Mt. 11:28. Jesus keeps on inviting us, “Come to me all you who are weary and heavily laden. I will give you rest.” It is here, at the foot of this altar, where Jesus is fully present, where we can find true peace and consolation. Are you toiled by ever growing issues in your life? Are you anxious about your future or your children’s or grandchildren’s futures? Are you worried about your family, your sick husband or wife or kids or parents or siblings? Jesus says again and again, “Come to me all you who are weary and heavily laden.....”

As we reflected on last Sunday, on the Solemnity of the Assumption of Mary, “at the school of Mary”, says John Paul II, “the apostles learned to have an intimate, profound, and constant relationship with the Eucharistic Lord. She must have taught them to be custodians of the greatest treasure of the Church: the Eucharist.” As the Second Vatican Council said, “In the Most Blessed Eucharist is contained the entire spiritual wealth of the Church, namely Christ Himself.” (*Presbyterorum Ordinis*, 5).

Let us offer our worship and adoration to the Blessed Sacrament what St. Thomas Aquinas did not hesitate to call, “*the greatest miracle that Christ ever worked on earth my Body my Blood*”. Before the greatness of this mystery, Let us also repeat St. Thomas Aquinas’ prayer of devotion in the presence of the Blessed Sacrament: “*O Sacrament most holy! O Sacrament divine! All praise and all thanksgiving be every moment Thine!*” Fr. Benny Mekkatt, CFIC.

Dear generous parishioners of Blessed Sacrament Church, I am deeply touched by your amazing generosity in supporting the CFIC Children's mission. As you know, the social concern collection for the month of June was directed to the CFIC Children's Mission and we were able to raise close to \$5,300.00. Surely, it is a major support to the CFIC Children's Mission especially when there is huge need for support due to the pandemic hitting the entire world. I fully understand that it is a beautiful expression of your love, kindness and support to me as well as to the children in those missions. You make a powerful impact in their lives. As I always say, your generous contributions and support to these children's mission are gratefully acknowledged and highly appreciated and be assured of these little innocent children's prayer support for you and your family.

We still have opportunities to continue this support on a regular basis by sponsoring one or two child. When you sponsor a child, you also will be able to have a regular communication with them. I am glad to inform you that we have a few parishioners stepped forward and sponsor one or more children, providing financial support to the CFIC Missions on a regular basis. You can help change the life of a child in need in this very simple and easy way. Please prayerfully consider joining your fellow parishioners in making a contribution to the CFIC Missions. Donations can be either ongoing or a one-time donation. More information can be obtained by either calling the parish office or by going directly to the following web site: CFIC-NORTHAMERICANDELEGATION.COM/DONATE

Expect blessings. Fr. Benny Mekkatt, CFIC

WEBSITE UPDATES

The best way to know what's going on at your parish is to come to Mass. Listen to announcements, see promotional displays, pray and talk with your fellow parishioners. During the weekdays, staff is happy to answer your questions, just give us a call. Find up-to-date info by visiting our website www.blessedsacramentsp.org. Look for what is new under "SYNOD", "UPCOMING", and "PARISH LIFE".

ATTENTION HOSPITALITY MINISTERS AND FUN FEST VOLUNTEERS

We will have a special CPR & AED review on Saturday, Sept. 11 @ 10:00 AM in the Robertson RM for all of the above mentioned ministers and volunteers.

We need to make sure we all know what to do if a parishioner or visitor begins to experience chest pain, dizziness or difficulty breathing. Please plan to attend.

SOCIAL CONCERNS FOR AUGUST

Our August mission supports the Catholic social teaching that education liberates. The Carmen Pampa Fund helps children in marginalized populations in Bolivia to have an affordable opportunity for a college education. Click to read about SOCIAL OUTREACH opportunities at Blessed Sacrament. We will take a second collection at Masses on August 28 and 29. Please mark your checks: "Pampa Fund."

ADORATION CHAPEL NEWS

Blessed Mother Teresa said that time spent with Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament is the best time we will spend on earth. Come join Jesus in our Adoration Chapel. Our greatest need for adorers is on Tuesday during the 3pm and 5pm hours, also on Friday at 1pm. Call Kathy @ 651-247-5185 or the parish office.



S PARISH ADMINISTRATION 651-738-0677
T **Rev. Benny Mekkatt**, Pastor ext. 11
A **John Florin**, Business Administrator ext. 10
F **Joy Hoffman**, Administrative Coordinator ext. 12
F **Deacon Jerry Saladin**.....952-607-9636
D PASTORAL MINISTRY 651-738-0677
I **Carol McKenna**,ext. 15
R FAITH FORMATION & SAFE ENVIRONMENT 651-738-0677
E **Connie Hill**, Director ext. 14
C MUSIC
T **Jan Meulemans**, Director.....651-307-7865
O PRAYER LINE
R Please call **Carol McKenna**.....612-594-1290
Y CHURCH EMAIL: Church@blessedsacramentsp.org
PARISH COUNCIL: parishcouncil@blessedsacramentsp.org

S **BAPTISM** - Participation in the Baptism preparation program is a prerequisite for Baptism. Schedule with the Parish Office.
A **RECONCILIATION**— Saturday 3:00-3:45pm or by appointment on other days
C **MATRIMONY**- Make arrangements with the pastor at least six months before the date.
R **ANOINTING OF THE SICK** - Please call the parish office if you or a family member is going to be hospitalized. Also, if you are home-bound and wish to receive the Eucharist or a friendly visit, please call the parish office.
A **LOW-GLUTEN HOSTS ARE AVAILABLE**- Please come to the Sacristy before Mass to arrange to receive one.

- Blessed Sacrament Adoration, M-F, Please see signage for hours.
- The Rosary is said just prior to all weekend Masses.

S **Sunday, August 22**
Twenty-First Sunday in Ordinary Time
Jos 24:1-2a, 15-17, 18b/Eph 5:21-32 or 5:2a, 25-32/Jn 6:60-69
 8:30am Parish Mass
 11am † Ronald Murphy
M **Monday, August 23**
Weekday/Saint Rose of Lima, Virgin
1 Thes 1:1-5, 8b-10/Mt 23:13-22
A **Tuesday, August 24**
Saint Bartholomew, Apostle
Rv 21:9b-14/Jn 1:45-51
 † Michael P. Casello, Sr.
S **Wednesday, August 25**
Weekday/Saint Louis; Saint Joseph Calasanz, Priest
1 Thes 2:9-13/Mt 23:27-32
 † Cruz Espenal Ancestors
R **Thursday, August 26**
Weekday
1 Thes 3:7-13/Mt 24:42-51
 Sister Maravillas of Jesus, OCD
E **Friday, August 27**
Saint Monica
1 Thes 4:1-8/Mt 25:1-13
 † William McGraw
A **Saturday, August 28**
Saint Augustine, Bishop and Doctor of the Church
1 Thes 4:9-11/Mt 25:14-30(Morning Readings)
 4pm † Ron Ryan, Jr.
D **Sunday, August 29**
Twenty-Second Sunday in Ordinary Time
Dt 4:1-2, 6-8/Jas 1:17-18, 21b-22, 27/Mk 7:1-8, 14-15, 21-23
 8:30am Parish Mass
 11am † Ben Hart & Agnes Rajala and Family

Church of the Blessed Sacrament

SCHEDULE FOR THE WEEK

August 22- August 29

Sun, Aug 22:	8:30am First Communion & Confirmation 9:30-10:45am Coffee & Donuts
Wed, Aug 25:	Young at Heart after Morning Mass
Sat, Aug 28:	Social Concerns Collection Carmen Pampa
Sun, Aug 29:	Social Concerns Collection Carmen Pampa 9:30-10:45am Coffee & Donuts

FINANCE

Gifts of Treasure

August 14/15, 2021

Sunday Envelopes & Plate:	\$ 3,593.00
Holy Day:	\$ 569.00
Other:	\$ 140.00
Pampa Fund:	\$ 70.00
Additional Operations:	\$ 180.00
Total :	\$ 4,552.00

ARCHDIOCESAN SYNOD UPDATES

Don't just believe in Jesus; follow Him! Make your voice heard at the Synod Small Group meetings beginning September 22 for every Wednesday through October 27. All teens and older should plan to attend either in the morning from 9-11 or evening from 6-8. Hearty refreshments will be served. Plan to discuss the Synod Focus Areas of :

1. **Forming parishes that are in the service of evangelization**
2. **Forming missionary disciples who know Jesus's love and respond to his call**
3. **Forming youth and young adults in and for a Church that is always young**

HOMECOMING FUNFEST

Homecoming Funfest
~ Book Sale!

Do you have a number of books you read during the pandemic and are ready to get rid of them? Consider donating them to our Book Sale...we really need your hard or soft cover books, adult or children's, for the

Book Sale booth. Please bring to church no later than September 5th. Thank you, Homecoming Funfest Committee



VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

GLPI

Twenty-First Sunday in Ordinary Time



2021-2022 Classes begin September 12

Faith Formation classes will meet from 9:45 to 10:45 am most Sundays (off for holidays and school breaks.) Classes include CGS through age 12 and Confirmation prep beginning in 8th grade.

Registration is open online or in person. Plan to attend a parent and catechist orientation meeting on Sunday August 22 at approximately 9:45 am or 10:00 am (following Mass and refreshments). Read more on our website and contact Connie with questions. Registration closes on September 1.

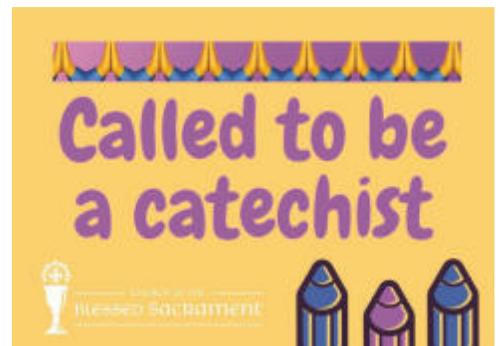


Our Confirmation students need you!

Our students are ready for you to walk with them on a journey of sacrament preparation. Classes are planned for Sunday mornings with a few additional times of service and worship throughout the year. No experience is necessary. VIRTUS E3 credentialing is required (about one hour online). All training is provided. You will give a lot and receive far more! If you or someone you know is living a vibrant Catholic life, connect with Connie about this rewarding ministry.

Children's Liturgy of the Word (CLW)

CLW begins September 12 and takes place during the 8:30 am Mass. Children hear the Sunday scripture proclaimed and explained at an age-appropriate level. Parents are welcome to join their children and assist with this ministry.



We are actively recruiting and training CLW leaders and assistants. All volunteers must be "Essential 3" compliant by completing an online VIRTUS training, a background check, and Code of Conduct. Contact Connie today to express interest.



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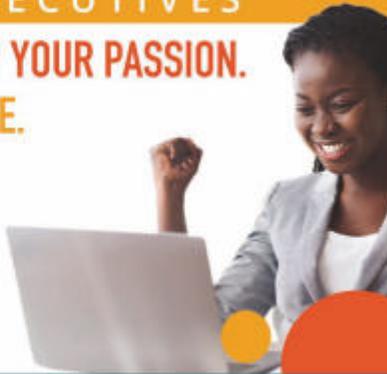
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