



Blessed Trinity

Weekend Magazine

Over 60 YEARS COURAGEOUSLY *Living the Gospel*
August 14, 2022 ▪ The Twentieth Sunday in Ordinary Time

How I began to believe that the Eucharist really is Jesus



By Tom Hoopes

It actually was Bob Dylan who got me started ...

When friends told me in college that they believed that the Eucharist at Mass is not bread anymore but really Jesus Christ, truly present, I didn't understand them.

"You mean you believe the bread recalls Christ at his Last Supper, right?" I said.

No, they said. They didn't believe

there was any bread there at all, after the consecration. There was just Jesus. He only *looked* like bread. Once I understood what they were saying, I thought they were crazy. In all my years attending the Catholic church, I had never been taught anything of the kind.

So first, they had to convince me the Church actually believes this.

Today, the Catechism exists, and it makes this doctrine very clear. But there was no Catechism back then — and so no simple way to find out if you were hearing real Church doctrine or someone's peculiar ideas.

I think they looked it up in Ludwig Ott's book to prove it to me. Whatever they did, I begrudgingly believed that the "Real Presence" was a real thing.

Stuff we Catholics did made more sense after that — genuflecting before getting into the pew, the priests cleaning the sacred vessels, and the many rules governing who can receive Communion.

Once I was convinced that the Real Presence was a real doctrine, however, I still thought it was crazy. Why would God want to take on the appearance of bread? Why would he want to be eaten?

Bob Dylan helped me understand.

After losing my faith in high school, I only became open to Christianity again because of Bob Dylan. I had bought all of his albums, and loved them all — even the Christian ones.

In the title song from his album *Saved*, Dylan concisely summed up his Protestant beliefs this way: "I was blinded by the devil / Born already ruined / Stone-cold dead / As I stepped out of the womb / By His grace I have been touched / By His word I have been healed / By His hand I've been delivered / By His Spirit I've been sealed / I've been saved / By the blood of the Lamb."

Continued on page 2



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Deacon Lionel Roberts,
Deacon Emeritus

CLERGY ASSISTANCE

Fr. Jack McDowell, OFM
Fr. Anthony Fortunato, OdeM
Fr. Victor Bartolotta

MASS SCHEDULE

Weekday Masses

Monday - Saturday 8:00 AM

Weekend Masses

Saturday Vigil at 4:00 PM

Sunday

8:00 AM, 9:30 AM & 11:30 AM

Follow the Sunday Mass on our
website, btsp.org.

Confessions will be held
Saturdays 2:45-3:45

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How I began to believe... *Continued from cover*

And then he repeated it: “Saved, by the blood of the Lamb.”

I bought what he said — to a point. I saw how Dylan could be “born already ruined.” We are all connected by blood to Adam, and so his decision to align himself with sin defined me just as one grandfather’s move from Kansas to Arizona and the other grandfather’s move from El Salvador to Mexico.

But how could Jesus’ blood get from Palestine two millennia ago to save Bob Dylan, or me, today?

It does so spiritually, the Protestants believe. But I couldn’t believe in that. God did things in a much more natural way than that in every other instance I knew of. If God wanted the blood of Jesus to reverse what I had inherited from the blood of Adam, I thought, that blood had to actually be in me.

And that’s when I got it.

“Unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink his blood, you do not have life with in you,” Jesus said, “For my flesh is true food and my blood is true drink.”

He scared people with that kind of talk, reports John— but he meant it.

The apostles must have been relieved when they realized the role bread and wine would play in this ingestion of blood. St. Paul described it a couple decades after the Last Supper, in about the year 53.

That was it. You were saved by the blood of Jesus directly — not spiritually. Even Bob Dylan seemed to acknowledge it later in his career, when, after leaving his Christian sect, he sang, “I never could learn to drink that blood and call it wine.”

Scriptures filled out the picture for me. One in particular.

Lots of Scriptures suddenly take on new life, when you see that God is preparing the way for the Eucharist: Melchizedek’s bread and wine, the Manna in the desert, the Passover Lamb and the multiplication of the loaves.

But one made the most sense to me for the first time: The supper at Emmaus. In the story, Jesus meets two of his disciples after his death. They don’t recognize him until he breaks bread — then he disappears.

That never sounded real to me. Again, I didn’t like spiritualizing Jesus. He did earthy miracles, with water and spit and mud. He didn’t do magician’s tricks like vanishing into thin air.

But I was willing to admit he would do something odd like that if he was trying to communicate something earthy. But what was he trying to communicate?

The Eucharist makes it clear: I am no longer with you in this form (my body) but in this form (bread).

And so, I believed. And still do.

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August 14, 2022

Twentieth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Jer 38:4-6, 8-10 | Heb 12:1-4 | Lk 12:49-53

Written by
THE
FAITHFUL
DISCIPLE

GROW AS A DISCIPLE | PRAY, STUDY, ENGAGE, SERVE

My mom loved her Nintendo 64. We especially enjoyed “Paperboy,” a video game where a paperboy riding a bicycle attempts to deliver newspapers along Easy Street, Middle Road, or Hard Way. He has to avoid obstacles that pop up along the way – barking dogs, mailboxes, skateboarders, trash cans, you name it! Sometimes life can seem that way. We can’t predict which obstacles will pop up, but the author of the Letter to the Hebrews encourages us to persevere, “keeping our eyes fixed on Jesus.” Whether we’re riding along “Easy Street” or “Hard Way,” we can look to Jesus to help us overcome the hardships that may come our way because we are his followers. As Jesus tells the disciples, following him will not always be easy and may even result in conflicts within our families. When that happens, we can look to the example of Jesus and the great “cloud of witnesses” to whom the Letter to the Hebrews refers, knowing that peace and reconciliation await us at the finish line.

GO EVANGELIZE

PRAYER, INVITATION, WITNESS, ACCOMPANIMENT

I used to have great fun watching my boys at our neighborhood swim meets. Even as my then-7-year-old zig-zagged into the lane lines during the backstroke, I would yell “Go! Go! Go! You’ve got this.” (And, please, someone catch his head at the finish!) He couldn’t hear a word I said. I wonder if it’s a bit like this when it comes to the “cloud of witnesses” – the saints, known and unknown, who encourage us in our faith. We can’t see them or hear them, but we know they are there. In turn, we can become cheerleaders for others running the race alongside us: offering encouragement, prayers, and reminding one another of the joy that awaits us. Spoken or silent, our prayers can help us and others persevere in our faith and place our trust in Jesus when times are tough.

STUDY The *catechism* chapter 3, The Characteristics of Faith (153-165), references this passage from Hebrews on being surrounded by a cloud of witnesses. Read especially #165.



Are You Hoping to Receive One of the Seven Sacraments With Us?

Matrimony

Congratulations on your engagement! Every Diocese in Florida requires at least six months preparation before marriage. Please call our Pastor, Fr. Wayne Genereux, at the Parish Office for an appointment before setting a date.

Baptism

We are honored that you would like to choose Blessed Trinity Catholic Church for the baptism of your child! We ask that you please call our Pastor, Fr. Wayne Genereux, at the Parish Office for information regarding the pre-baptism class before scheduling a baptism.

Office Hours

Monday—Friday 9-12 and 1-4
Closed for Lunch Noon to 1 pm



Mass Intentions

Saturday, August 13, Memorial of Saint Pontian, Pope, and Saint Hippolytus, Priest; Martyrs

4:00 p.m. Peter Mulligan (Dec)

Sunday, August 14, The Twentieth Sunday in Ordinary Time

8:00 a.m. Philip Roach (Dec)

9:30 a.m. Mass for Parishioners

11:30 a.m. Marlene Romani (Dec)

Monday, August 15, Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary

8:00 a.m. Mass for Parishioners

Tuesday, August 16, Memorial of Saint Stephen of Hungary

8:00 a.m. Joseph & Delores Cininers (Dec)

Wednesday, August 17, Weekday in Ordinary Time

8:00 a.m. Mass for Vocations

Thursday, August 18, Weekday in Ordinary Time

8:00 a.m. Francis Joseph Fogarty (Dec)

Friday, August 19, Memorial of Saint John Eudes, Priest

8:00 a.m. Rose H. Mikek (Dec)

Saturday, August 20, Memorial of Saint Bernard, Abbot and Doctor of the Church

8:00 a.m. Lyliane Corvington (Dec)

4:00 p.m. Lyliane Corvington (Dec)

Sunday, August 21, The Twenty-first Sunday in Ordinary Time

8:00 a.m. Patricia Lewis (Dec)

9:30 a.m. Mass for Parishioners

11:30 a.m. Nick Calandra (Dec)

Prayer for Priests & Future Priests

Eternal Father, We lift up to you these and all the priests of the world. Sanctify them, heal and guide them. Mold them into the likeness and holiness of your Son Jesus, the Eternal High Priest. May their lives be pleasing to you. In Jesus name, we pray. Amen.

08/14 • Rev. Viet Nguyen

08/15 • Rev. Joshua Bertrand

08/16 • Rev. Edwin Palka

08/17 • For Vocations to Priesthood & Religious Life

08/18 • Rev. Arthur Proulx

08/19 • Rev. Kevin Yarnell

08/20 • Rev. Bill D. Wilson

These are the names of the active priests and seminarians in our Diocese. Remember our Bishop has designated Wednesdays as Diocesan Day of Prayer for Vocations. Please continue to pray that more young people will hear and answer God's call to the Priesthood and Religious Life.

SALESIAN SISTERS MISSION APPEAL



As part of the Diocesan Mission Cooperative Plan, a Salesian Sister of St. John Bosco will speak at our Parish on Sunday, September 24-25, 2022 on behalf of their foreign mission ministries.

The Salesian Sisters are a worldwide Community counting over 11,000 Sisters spreading the Gospel on the five Continents, in 97 countries. Many of their Sisters work strictly in mission areas affected by great poverty, diseases, political unrest, violence, war and other difficult conditions, such as, areas of natural disaster and refugee camps.

The Salesian Sisters were founded by St. John Bosco in 1872 and started their mission work in 1877 when they departed from Italy for the farthest tip of South America called Patagonia and Tierra del Fuego. Ever since, they have continued to provide missionaries for Africa, Asia, Latin America, the Pacific Islands and other places not yet evangelized or in need of re-evangelization.

Their Congregation was specifically founded for the service of poor youth; consequently, most of their ministries will have an educational thrust. They are grateful for the opportunity of sharing their mission work here at Blessed Trinity and of benefiting from your generosity.

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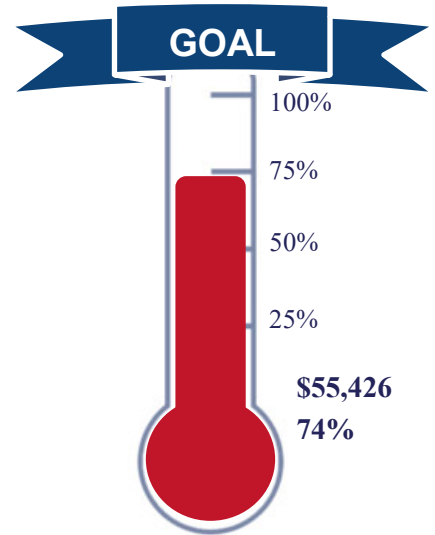


St. Anthony's Prayer for Peace of Mind

O holy Saint Anthony, your deep faith in Jesus Christ comforted your heart, especially during times of trial and distress. Help me grow in faith, so I may experience peace of mind and heart in my present needs (Here mention). Free me from undue anxiety, needless worry, and burdensome fears. Grant me sure confidence, unfailing trust in God's loving mercy and daily serenity. ~ Amen



Our Goal \$74,741



Thank you for your prayerful giving!



Faith Formation Classes

Registration has begun for our fall Faith Formation classes.

Please complete and return registration forms to the parish office no later than August 31.

EVERYDAY STEWARDSHIP - RECOGNIZE GOD IN YOUR ORDINARY MOMENTS

A Steward's Growing Pains

Have you ever written a check or seen the charge on the credit card machine that had far too many zeros on it for your comfort?

The brakes finally give up on the car you were hoping to nurse through the season. The water heater dies on the coldest week of the year. A medical procedure wasn't totally covered by insurance. We've all been here in this place, being asked to part with a not-so-small sum of money for a not-so-fun reason.

It's a little easier to bear when you're forking over dollar signs for a fun vacation or even a worthy cause like your child's education. But when it's something you weren't expecting, something negative, that uneasiness in the pit of your stomach can quickly become despair.

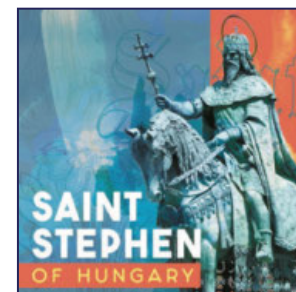
The next time this happens to you, embrace it. Celebrate it. Wrap your arms around it and welcome it as a growing pain.

We are often asked, in life, to give more than we wish. Our loved ones demand greater patience than we think we have. Our prayer life is stalling, and we feel God isn't holding up His end of the communication bargain. The daily grind seems to be grinding *us* down. We feel that uneasiness in the pit of our stomach, just as we do when we part with money we thought belonged solely to us.

That place of uncertainty propels us in life, in stewardship, in relationship. All forward motion comes from that feeling. Put out your hands and let yourself be thrust into the pit — He will stoop to take you out from the mud. Spread your arms on your cross — joy is waiting for you.

— Tracy Earl Welliver, *MTS*

©LPi



St. Stephen of Hungary August 16

Born a pagan in the 10th century Saint Stephen was baptized as a boy when his father converted to Christianity. Saint Stephen married Gisela, daughter of Duke Henry II of Bavaria who would become Saint Henry II. He succeeded his father as leader and began to transform the nation into a Christian kingdom.

Pope Sylvester II proclaimed him the first king of Hungary in 1001, sending him a crown and gold processional cross. The crown, made in the Byzantine style, has become a symbol of Hungarian nationhood.

King Stephen's reign was a relatively peaceful and prosperous time. He outlawed paganism, mandated church building, and tithing for support of the parish, and commanded all to marry except clergy and religious. He founded a Benedictine monastery, and Hungary became an important place along the route to the Holy Land for many pilgrims.

Unfortunately, Stephen's son and heir died in a hunting accident, causing much conflict over the succession when the saint died. Eventually the kingdom was won back for Christendom and father and son were canonized in 1083 by Pope St. Gregory VII. Saint Stephen I is now patron saint of Hungary.

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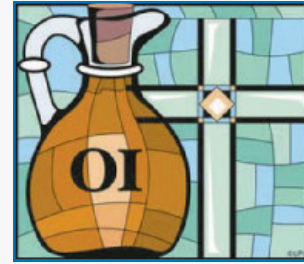
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 Youngman, Kyle
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Anointing of the Sick

To request the Anointing of the Sick for yourself or a loved one, please contact the parish office, 727-867-3663.

If you or a close family member would like to be added or removed from our prayer list, please contact the parish office at 727-867-3663.



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