



Corpus Christi Procession in the 1930's

We are a welcoming Roman Catholic Parish that cherishes the Polish heritage of our founders and celebrates the diversity of all who enter, thus striving to give glory to God through worship and service to the community.

Rev. Joseph T. Hilinski, Pastor
 Phone: 216 661-1191
 Rev. Andrzej Knapik
 Assistant for Polish Speaking Ministry
 Phone: 216 255-2451 (cell)

St. Barbara Church

1505 Denison Avenue
 Cleveland, Ohio 44109-2890

Established in 1905
 Fax: 216 661-1148
 Email: st.barbara@att.net
www.tinyurl.com/SaintBarbara

The Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ – Corpus Christi – June 14, 2020

CIAŁO BOZE

The celebration of the Feast of The Body and Blood of Christ this year will not see our usual procession with the Eucharistic Host carried in the monstrance under the baldacchino adding the honor guard of bearers! While this development of Catholic ritual in the 11th century is beautiful, we all realize that it is in the Sacrifice of the Mass, preserved from the apostolic times, that is the focus and center for this mystery. The Body and Blood of Jesus Christ has been given to us so that we might truly be transformed into his Life and become sharers in the Divine eternal life! The ancient churches both Orthodox and Catholic have been ever consistent and insistent of what happens. The Holy Spirit transforms bread and wine into the Body and Blood of Jesus Christ for our nourishment and salvation. And the Mystery of the Cross is renewed in our time so that we might realize what a gift of love God has shared in the Passion, Death, and Resurrection of His Only Begotten Son.

The architecture of our churches clearly places the altar as the central piece of furnishing. Even when large crucifixes do not dominate the sanctuary, as in some churches, we need to realize that the altar is the cross on which the Sacrifice of Jesus is offered. And while the icon of the cross is very

sacred, the altar receives primary veneration with kisses of the celebrant at each Mass and the bows of the minor ministers as well as incensations a number of times in the solemn Mass.

It is an interesting bit of church liturgical law that while you are to have a crucifix on or near the altar, it could be just a small one on the altar or the processional cross in a stand. The participation of the congregation in eating the elements which for so many weeks could not take place confirms the faith of all in the saving sacrifice of Christ and the nourishment not just of his body but of his teaching and love! Sadly, we are still restricted at this time in offering the chalice to the faithful. While we believe whether we receive the host or even only the chalice we are receiving both the Body and the Blood of Christ, to share both of them is a fuller sign of his love and Sacrifice. For Jesus gave both at the Last Supper to his disciples when he said “take and eat “and “take and drink.”



So no procession in the tradition of the four altars at this time, and yet there is the procession of the faithful. When you come forward to take the Bread of Life you carry it back not only to your pew but you carry Jesus out into the world of your family and work. We can still really celebrate this holy Feast-- Cialo Boze/Corpus Christi!

-- Fr. Hilinski

