THE MOST HOLY BODY AND BLOOD OF CHRIST

SUNDAY JUNE 14, 2020

REMAIN

“Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood remains in me and I in him.”

JOHN 6:56

SUNDAY’S READINGS

FIRST READING:
“Not by bread alone does one live, but by every word that comes forth from the mouth of the LORD.” (Dt 8:3b)

PSALM:
Praise the Lord, Jerusalem. (Ps 147) or Alleluia

SECOND READING:
Because the loaf of bread is one, we, though many, are one body, for we all partake of the one loaf. (1 Cor 10:17)

GOSPEL:
“For my flesh is true food, and my blood is true drink. Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood remains in me and I in him.” (Jn 6:55-56)

OBSERVANCES FOR THE WEEK OF JUNE 7, 2020
Sunday: The Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ; Flag Day
Friday: The Most Sacred Heart of Jesus
Saturday: The Immaculate Heart of the Blessed Virgin Mary; World Refugee Day
Next Sunday: 12th Sunday in Ordinary Time; Father’s Day

REFLECT

FIRST READING
Moses reminds the Israelites of how God’s miraculous gifts of manna (bread) and water (early images of the Eucharist) helped them through their trials and tribulations. How would you explain to a friend how the Eucharist sustains you through difficult times?

SECOND READING
Paul spoke of how the believers in Corinth celebrating the Eucharist were engaged in an act of “participation” in the Body and Blood of Christ. How do you imagine the Corinthians reacting to this description?

GOSPEL READING
We hear in today’s Gospel the closing remarks from Jesus’ Bread of Life discourse. As a Christian who believes in the Eucharist, how would you answer the Jews’ original question: “How can this man give us his flesh to eat?”

THE MOST HOLY BODY AND BLOOD OF CHRIST
Responding to the Covid19 outbreak has been a long and strange experience for us and our friends and neighbors wherever we live and work. It has been a great hardship for many, and a serious and sometimes unseen burden for everyone. It’s like a cloud hovering over us that just doesn’t go away. As we see the instances of infection spiking around the country, it is comforting to know that the precautions here in the tri-state area have resulted in a continuing decline in cases of infection. As churches within the larger NY State community, it is our job to see that precautions remain in place as we reopen for the public gatherings that are essential to our identity.

As we make our return to the table of the Lord as a parish family, we enter into a “new normal”. Here are the guidelines for the resumption of public Mass:

- To ensure that seating isn’t disruptive, please arrive early.
- Facial coverings must be worn in the building.
- In order to abide by social distancing rules, families should sit in the side aisles whenever there is room.
- Sit only in available rows; not in the rows roped off.
- Keep four empty seats between you/your family and the next person/family.
- Please place your offering in the baskets by the baptismal font or by the library. The ushers will not be passing the collection basket during offertory.
- **Communion hosts will be distributed.** Please leave 6’ of space between yourself and others (with the exception of members of your family) when approaching the altar.
- **Gloves may not be worn when receiving the Eucharist.**
- Remove your face mask when the person in front of you receives. Replace your face mask after you receive. There will be no reception of the precious blood.

Bishop Barres is continuing the special dispensation from attending Mass at this time. So please if you are not comfortable attending or receiving the Eucharist, there is no obligation to do so. And if you are not feeling well, please stay home and take care of yourself.

Not having our weekly gatherings for such a long period certainly counteracts the tendency to “take church for granted.” I certainly miss it, and have treasured the few instances of actually seeing parishioners and having a conversation! Now we are starting to get back together, and this will be much more difficult than our abrupt stopping. In presenting our initial plan I am also inviting each of us to contribute our patience. There are multiple unknowns in our future, but with a spirit of appreciation we will manage as well as ever. Let our coming together be a little bit of heaven in the midst of a world in chaos. Let us make God’s Kingdom on earth tangible for each other and all around us.
THE HEART OF STEWARDSHIP

What else is there to give when one has already given away one’s body and one’s life? What more can one say or do to demonstrate love for another when all one had has been given to another? This total giving of self to loved ones cannot be trumped by flowery words or material gifts that are fleeting. This is the ultimate in love. This is the love Jesus had for us on the way to his Passion, at the institution of the Holy Eucharist. This is the love he has for us daily in the celebration of the Mass on altars in every church, in every city, in every nation on earth. No one can give more. No one can ask for more. This is the true heart of Christian stewardship.

If you take the time to gaze upon your God in the simplest of forms and begin to reflect on what has actually taken place with bread and wine becoming the presence of the Divine, then you can begin to understand true humility, sacrifice, and love. And when you have the privilege to take that Real Presence into your body at the meal where you are an honored guest, you become one with the One who is the embodiment of stewardship.

Then, you must ask yourself, “How can I even begin to reflect the love that I have encountered at this feast?” The answer is you can begin with the simple actions of the day: where will you go, whom will you meet, and in what work will you partake? Jesus Christ has shown that the greatest gift ever given can be disguised in this world in a piece of bread. By joining your body to his, he can now transform human hearts, not by grand acts, but by everyday acts, by everyday people, practicing Everyday Stewardship.

—Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS

WHY DO CATHOLICS PRAY TO MARY AND THE SAINTS?

One of the statements of faith we make when we pray the Nicene Creed and the Apostles Creed is that we believe in “the communion of saints.” The Catechism of the Catholic Church reminds us that this communion (another word for community) includes all the faithful on earth, the souls in Purgatory, and the blessed women, men, and children who are in heaven. This teaching is grounded in our belief that, through Baptism, we are united with Christ and to one another with bonds that are stronger even than death.

And so from the time of the early Church, Christians have turned to other believers for prayers and assistance, including those who have gone before us, confident that God hears the prayers of all of His children. While we ask the saints (and one another) for prayers and support, we remember that the saints join us in prayer. But it is God who blesses and sanctifies us.

When we think of Mary and the saints in heaven, we have to remember that we can turn to them for intercession and assistance because they were faulted, limited human beings, just like us. This means that they are able to understand our struggles, doubts, fears, joys, and hopes. But as we learn their stories, we can also begin to recognize that they stand out in the history of the Church because they persevered in their commitment to follow Christ. Whether they were ordained, vowed religious, martyrs, husbands, wives, or even children, they show us that holiness is possible. We can not only follow their example but also benefit from their prayerful support.

Our devotion to the saints and gratitude for their witness, prayers, and protection should also be an inspiration for us, especially when we become aware of the needs of others or when others ask us to pray for them. We are called to share the blessings we receive. This is also part of our own journey of growing in holiness.

HAVE YOU PRAYED TODAY?

JUNE 14, 2020
They recognized him in the breaking of bread. This was the amazing revelation or epiphany that occurred on the Road to Emmaus. Bread that had been transformed into the Body of Christ opened the eyes of the disciples and showed them who was really with them. Their hearts were burning. Sometimes we struggle with our belief in the Eucharist because we make it too much of an intellectual challenge. If God’s divinity was wed to humanity in the incarnation of Christ, then why is it not possible for God to take simple elements of bread and wine and transform them into His Body and Blood? Affirm your faith today that the Eucharist you receive is God Himself. Become what you eat and allow God to embrace your soul and touch that part of you that no one else can touch.

Each week we reach out to God when we bring our offering to the table of the Lord. These gifts symbolize our stewardship - our time, talents and treasure, that we return to God through His Church.

To make a donation, please visit our website www.miparish.net and click on the giving link.

You can also donate by texting 105parishmaryimmaculate to 516-271-3338. Thank you for your faithful support.
GOSPEL MEDITATION
ENCOURAGE DEEPER UNDERSTANDING OF SCRIPTURE

It is no wonder that followers of Christ are called the Body of Christ. After all, sharing in the same spiritual food and sacred meal, they become what they eat and reveal the Divine Image. There is so much power for healing in the community of believers. Through the Eucharist, Christ becomes as present in those who have partaken of his Body and Blood as he has the elements themselves. The very presence of God touches the depths of the human soul and visits a part of us that no human being can ever hope to explore. We are God’s. The sacred Eucharistic meal is a celebration of intimacy, the reunion of two loves in constant search of and longing for the other.

The community of believers receives the power and the presence to touch and heal in the name of the One they have welcomed within. It is now within their grasp to change the way life is lived and to more intentionally put into practice the Beatitudes that the Divine Guest has revealed. We are asked to be like Christ and work to create a world of sufficiency, where the greed of some no longer creates the want of others but where all of God’s children can find a home and a place at the table of life. The One who makes a home within calls us to live a life that transforms. We are changed ourselves and now become agents of change for others. We are the Body of Christ. God is with us. We have been nourished.

Sadly, many are afraid to try. We know what we are called to do, but we struggle with feelings of doubt as to whether God really is the Way, the Truth, and the Life. Do our systems have to change? Is it possible that we somehow missed the mark when we put all of our social networks in place and established the business of our lives? Perhaps we have to radically rethink our approach and that can scare us. We might have to give something up or change, and we don’t want to. As long as want, injustice, division, prejudice, and scarcity still exit, there is tremendous work for the Body of Christ.

“Just as the living Father sent me and I have life because of the Father, so also the one who feeds on me will have life because of me. This is the bread that came down from heaven. Unlike your ancestors who ate and still died, whoever eats this bread will live forever.” - Jn 6:57-58

Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass 2009, 1956, 1970 CCD

SUPPORT OUR ADVERTISERS
Local businesses and sponsors that advertise on bulletins need you now more than ever before. Please encourage and remind others to show their support during this time.

JUNE 14, 2020
You are invited to honor your father, grandfather, father-in-law, the father of your children, or the father figure in your life - living or deceased - with a special remembrance after Mass on Fathers’ Day.

Each name of those remembered in this special way will be read aloud and a flower placed in a vase near our statue of St. Joseph.

To honor the special man in your life, you can
• use the Father’s Day envelope that you receive in the mail
• pick up an envelope when you visit the church after Sunday Mass
• visit our website and click on Father’s Day Remembrance.
Registration is now Open

Register by visiting our website and either use the on-line registration or print out a form and return it to the office. You can pay on-line or write a check. Payment must be received with your registration form. Placement will be on a first-registered, first-placed basis and will be confirmed after payment is received. If you are experiencing a financial hardship, please contact the Faith Formation coordinator, Fran Bursztyn, to discuss payment options.

fran@miparish.net  631-286-0154
The St. Vincent de Paul Society is facing an unprecedented challenge during the pandemic. So many more people are in need of assistance.

Donations are needed to replenish the shelves so we can continue to provide for our neighbors in need.

Altar Server Lizzie Ryan is earning her Girl Scout Silver Award by bringing awareness to food pantries and has come up with a creative way for you help.

A drive thru donation collection will be held on Father’s Day, Sunday June 21st, from 10 am to 1 pm. Using social distance guidelines, please enter through the church parking lot and exit on Bell street.

There is an immediate need for canned vegetables. Other suggested donations include:

- Tomato Sauce
- Cans of soup
- Tuna (canned or pouches)
- Pasta, Rice
- Canned pasta meals
- Dry soup Mix and ramen
- Cereal
- Dry or shelf stable milk
- Peanut butter and jelly

Proverbs 19:17 “Whoever is generous to the poor lends to the Lord, and he will repay him for his deed.”
We unite together spiritually in prayer as a parish community praying for those in need.

Let us begin In the name of the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit
We unite together spiritually in prayer as a parish community praying for our many needs.

May we who are merely inconvenienced remember those whose lives are at stake. May we who have no risk factors Remember those most vulnerable. May we who have the luxury of working from home Remember those who must choose between preserving their health or making their rent.

May we who have the flexibility to care for our children when their schools close Remember those who have no options. May we who have to cancel our trips Remember those that have no safe place to go.

May we who settle in for a quarantine at home Remember those who have no home.

As fear, anxiety, and division grips our country, let us choose love. During this time when we cannot physically wrap our arms around each other, let us find ways to be the loving embrace of God to our neighbors.

We pray today

♦ For Laurie’s grandson James who finally has been accurately diagnosed by doctors at the Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia. The family is grateful for our prayers and asks that we continue to pray for James as he faces a long road to recovery.
♦ For Judy who undergoes a procedure next week. May she be fully restored to good health
♦ For a cure for Kate
♦ For Christy may she grow stronger each day and experience complete recovery soon

And we pray for the safety of all those on the front lines and in harm’s way in the pandemic, especially

♦ For Marisa, a nurse in Massachusetts caring for covid-19 patients
♦ For Connie’s niece, Sara, who is in her second year of residency and is working in the emergency room at Stony Brook Hospital.
♦ For Ingrid, a respiratory therapist treating Covid patients
♦ For the safety and health of Judy’s son Scott, a police officer in New Orleans, who is to the virus every day.
♦ And For those who labor in feeding the less fortunate during this difficult time, especially for Ryan Carroll, Debbie Loesch and our own St Vincent de Paul Society volunteers.

We continue to pray for

♦ For Gary’s niece Bernadette who is pregnant and expecting in August
♦ For the health of Carol’s daughter-in-law Kristen and the health of her baby due in September
♦ For the health of Jamie Morrison, Bill Scott, Sam Ramey, Preston Taylor. Anne Garcia and Rosalie Kalinowski. and for the health and safety of Elizabeth, Patrick, Matthew Morrison, as well as for their parents Michelle and Jamie Morrison and all our children, grandchildren and great grandchildrenFor Cindy’s who is in rehab still working on her recovery from job-related injuries
♦ For Donna’s husband Frank who continues to struggle with health issues
For Joseph’s continuing miraculous health journey

For Bob who is awaiting test results for a stomach tumor. We pray God grant Bob and his wife Linda the physical and spiritual strength needed to face the challenges ahead.

For Diane’s Dad, George Perrone, battling lung cancer. He has been experiencing bad side effects from his Chemo infusion treatments.

And for George’s wife, Rose, who has lymphoma. May our Lord give them strength through these difficult days.

And in thanksgiving for Rosemary Perrone who finally had surgery to repair her heart blockage. Her recovery is going well.

For Gary’s friend Pina who is still struggling with a blood disorder that has not responded to treatment, and for her disabled daughter under her care.

For John & Carolyn’s daughter Danielle, for her complete healing as she undergoes radiation treatment

For Charlie Swift, that he be restored to good health

For Julie Saul, who has undergone 3 months of painful therapy and now is still awaiting a life-saving bone marrow transplant until the pandemic has passed.

For the members of the Koenig Family who all have contracted the virus.

For emotional and mental healing for Richie Fuerch. May the Lord grant him peace and quiet his fears and anxiety. And we pray also for Joan Fuerch.

For Judy’s neighbor Joe who recovered from the virus only to be diagnosed with prostate cancer.

For Louisa’s husband Luhur who has just begun a new treatment regimen for cancer. May this be his cure.

For Shannon’s nephew, 9 year old Oliver Burkhardt who was recently diagnosed with leukemia. Oliver began chemotherapy 2 weeks ago. We pray that he feel the support, love and prayers of this faith community, and may Our Lord grant them - and all who suffer from incurable disease - strength, hope and courage all their days.

And on this, our final Wednesday Prayer Service, let us remember all who have died and for whom we have prayed for over these past weeks. May Mary comfort those who mourn their loss and may our Heavenly Father welcome them into eternal life.

And so we pray for the repose of the souls of

Elizabeth Lombardi
Peter Kokell
Anna Marie Vallone
Dr. Lorna Breen
Ellen Schon Lee
Mary Stanganelli
Salvatore Richard Materia
Peter DiChiaro
Tony and Roseanne Curiale
Tony and Tena Loreto
Elizabeth Hamilton
Robert Santiago Leon
Robert Caruso
Daniel O’Connor
For these petitions and for all those we hold in the silence of our hearts, we now ask for the intercession of our Blessed Mother.

Our Lady, Queen of Peace, pray for us.  
Our Lady, Help of Christians, pray for us.  
Our Lady, Seat of Wisdom, pray for us.  
Our Lady, Comforter of the Afflicted, pray for us.  
Our Lady, Health of the Sick, pray for us.  
Our Lady, Queen of Heaven and Earth, pray for us.

Keep us O Lord under the shadow of your mercy in this time of uncertainty and distress.  Sustain and support the anxious and the fearful, and lift up all who are brought low that we may rejoice in your comfort knowing that nothing can separate us from your love.

Amen

This will be our final Wednesday noon prayer service.  I thank you for coming together in prayer today and for joining together these past several weeks.  

*Holy Mary Mother of God pray for us sinners now and at the hour of our death. In the name of the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit. Amen*

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**Mass Intentions**

Now, perhaps more than ever, we can gain comfort and offer consolation to others during their time of grief by having a Mass said for a friend or loved one.

*We are still accepting Mass Intentions during the health crisis.*

**You may also offer a Mass for healing for someone in need.**

Please call the office to make arrangements  - 631-286-0154  - or email leslie@miparish.net
Come back to me, with all your heart. Don’t let fear keep us apart.

You are invited to return to the Sacrament of Penance

Saturdays at 4 pm in the Library of the Large Church

Be renewed and restored through confession and absolution.

The Parish Family of Mary Immaculate

We live-stream Mass Monday through Friday at 9 am and also Sunday at 11 am on Facebook.

If you don’t have a Facebook account, you can always view Masses on our website after they have concluded.

If you would like to submit an intention for our special Wednesday Prayer Service, please email leslie@miparish.net.

If you would like to receive emails from us, please send your name, street address and your email address to leslie@miparish.net

Your weekly offering is both greatly needed and much appreciated. You can support your parish by mailing in your envelopes or you can use our on-line giving program by visiting our website at www.miparish.net and click on the “GIVING” link. You can also make a donation by texting 105parishmaryimmaculate to 516-271-3338.

Our website will continue to be updated with the latest information. Whenever we receive news from the Diocese, we will share it on our website. All sacraments continue to be suspended at this time.

If you need to speak with someone in the office, please do leave a message if no one is available to pick up your call. Someone will get back to you as soon as possible.

May God bless you and your family.