

St. Joseph Congregation

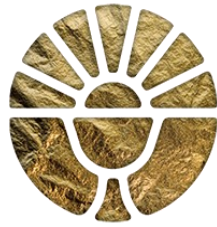
Faith on Center

May Newsletter2023



May the month of Mary

May Crowning will be Sunday May 21st before the 10:30am Mass



ARCHDIOCESE of MILWAUKEE

Eucharistic Revival

The Year of Eucharistic Revival at St. Joseph, Wauwatosa

In their meeting in the fall of 2021, the United States Catholic Conference of Bishops approved a three year Eucharistic Revival whose purpose is to “renew the church by enkindling a living relationship with the Lord Jesus Christ in the Holy Eucharist.” The first year was from June 19, 2022 through June 10 of 2023 and was called the “Year of Diocesan Revival.” The purpose of this year was to prepare diocesan staff to share the love of the Eucharist with the Catholics in their dioceses.

The second year is called the “Year of Parish Revival, and it goes from June 11, 2023 through July 17, 2024. This year has also been called the “Year of Eucharistic Revival,” and this is the year that I am writing about principally in this article. The purpose of this year is to strengthen Catholics in their understanding of the real presence of Christ in the Eucharist and in their “devotion to Christ in the Eucharist.”

The third year is the “Year of Going Out on Mission,” and it runs from July 21, 2024 through Pentecost, 2025. The purpose is to deepen and spread this devotion to others.

Let us now focus on the Year of Eucharistic Revival from June 11, 2023 through July 17, 2024. On June 10, 2023 there will be an Archdiocesan Eucharistic Congress at the Mary, Mother of the Church Pastoral Center. There will be a Mass, “deepening formation on the Eucharist . . . a Family Zone for those with children . . . a Eucharistic procession” and opportunities for Confession and Eucharistic Adoration. Registration begins on the weekend of April 29/30 and closes on June 1, 2023: “\$20 per person or \$50 per family.”

At St. Joseph, there will be a Eucharistic procession at the Masses on the June 11, Corpus Christi Sunday weekend. In July through Christmas, the plan is to have one or more speakers talk on the Eucharist, more homilies preached on the Eucharist, more opportunities for Eucharistic adoration, and opportunities both for groups at the parish to integrate a focus on the Eucharist into their sessions and for the school to highlight it in their religious curriculums.

From January 2024 there will be both parish-wide and archdiocesan-wide events to grow in the understanding of the Eucharist and in Eucharistic devotion. At our parish, other such occasions will be another talk on the Eucharist at this time and more homilies about the Eucharist. Further, we will offer a program called Emmaus 90. It is a ninety-day program from January 1 through the end of March. Groups consisting of several people may come together to read the Bible together and to pray together. This will be advertised more as the time approaches. In addition, there will be another Eucharistic procession on Corpus Christi Sunday in June of 2024. Archdiocesan-wide opportunities include the ten-year Archdiocesan synod anniversary Mass at the Mary, Mother of the Church Pastoral Center on May 19, 2024 and the opportunity of archdiocesan delegates to attend a National Eucharistic Congress in Indianapolis on July 18 – 21 of 2024.

This is the beginning of our information to you on this Year of Eucharistic Revival. We plan to continue keeping you aware of opportunities as they approach.

Dennis Sylva, Adult Minister

The Eucharist and the Gift of Real Presence

The real presence of Christ in the Eucharist means that Jesus is fully present to us, in us, with us and for us (John 6:53–54). What does this *concretely* mean in our lives? The Eucharist is a sign of this presence but it is more than that; it is the actual divine and human presence of Jesus. At the Last Supper, Jesus uttered the words of Eucharistic institution: —“This is my body which is given for you . . . This cup which is poured out for you is the new covenant in my blood (Luke 22:19-20). By so doing, Jesus made *the greatest act of love for us*, which was about to occur in his death on the cross, a reality that *would never leave us*. He insured that this love would remain with us through the Eucharist, and he did so by insuring his presence would never leave us—“*This is my body . . . This cup . . . my blood*” (Luke 22:19-20).

Let's begin by looking at the “what” and the “when” of the Last Supper at which Jesus instituted the Eucharist. The “what” is a fellowship meal of Jesus with his disciples. It was a Passover meal (Matt. 26:17–18; Mark 14:12–14; Luke 22:8). During this meal, Jews celebrated God's passing over the Israelites and delivering them from the slavery of Egypt. When we come together with others for a meal it is a celebratory event. It is an event that is meant to be both nourishing and enjoyable. When you arrange a dinner with people you have a hope for a sharing of fellowship, an establishing or a strengthening of connections between you and the others at dinner, and a hope to renew these ties regularly in the future.

Jesus used the context of a Passover meal to speak to the disciples about his offering them and all people a new type of liberation from a different danger than slavery in Egypt: a liberation by his radical love for us from the danger of a self-centeredness that closes off this type of life. Notice “when” he offers it. It is when he knows that one of them will betray him (Matt. 26:21–25). It is when he knows that the disciples will not stand by him in his difficult hour (Matt. 26:31); only one of the twelve is said to be at the cross with him (John 19:26–27). Jesus offers his life for his disciples shortly before, according to three gospels, the disciples fall asleep in the garden while Jesus was suffering with the anticipation of his arrest and death (e.g., Luke 22:42, 45).

In the midst of all of Jesus' foreknowledge of people being unfaithful to him, he says to them, in effect, at the Last Supper, “let's do this again; you've got a standing invitation to come for supper any time.” In other words, when Jesus says,

Take this, all of you, and eat of it: For this is my body which will be given up for you. Do this in memory of me. Take this all of you and drink from it for this is the chalice of my blood, the blood of the new and eternal covenant, which will be poured out for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins

he shows each and every one of us that he loves us so much that we are always welcome at the meal of the Eucharist in which he shares his very self with us: the loving self that frees and empowers our love. You know how much another cares for you when after a dinner with them they invite you to please come *any time*. You know how much another loves you when they tell you that you are *always welcome at dinner* even after their knowledge of how you will not be there to support them when they are in need (Jesus' agony in the garden and crucifixion). In this light, it is noteworthy how often the gospels write about Jesus going to eat with people considered sinners. This is the strength of love that is not overpowered or diminished one iota by any of the obstacles that our behavior puts in its way. This is offered in the Eucharist.

The Eucharist is a guarantee of Jesus' divine and human presence to always be there with us, in us, and for us no matter what we go through. This is the real presence of Christ in the fullness of his divinity and humanity. He comes to us knowing the human condition and supporting us in it with infinite divine love.

Many people ask, “how can the Eucharist be Christ’s body and blood?” But the miraculous is by definition something that we cannot explain in terms of the laws of nature. The teaching on the body and blood of Christ in the Eucharist is called transubstantiation. It states that in the Eucharist while the appearances of the bread and wine remain the same, there is “the change of the whole substance of bread into the substance of the Body of Christ and of the whole substance of wine into the substance of the Blood of Christ” (USCCB, “What Is the Eucharist?”). As a result,

the whole Christ is truly present—body, blood, soul, and divinity—under the appearances of bread and wine, the glorified Christ who rose from the dead. This is what the Church means when she speaks of the “Real Presence” of Christ in the Eucharist.

In his encyclical entitled *Mysterium Fidei* (“The Mystery of Faith”), Pope Paul VI wrote that Christ is not just symbolically or spiritually present in the Eucharist. Rather, the Eucharist is “a substantial presence by which Christ the God-Man is wholly and entirely present.” Christ is present to our humanity in the fullness of his divinity and humanity.

Is this possible? In a number of gospel accounts, we read the story of Jesus’ multiplication of the loaves to feed the thousands of hungry people with him. This is followed by the story of his walking on the water to his disciples in their boat and his stilling the storm they were experiencing (e.g., Mark 6:31 – 53). Things beyond the range of our common experience—but then, the most important experiences in life are amazing. Placing these two stories together signifies that Jesus can do with his body what he wishes to do with it. The multiplication of the small quantity of bread so that it could feed thousands prefigures the sharing of Jesus’ self in the Eucharist. Jesus’ walking toward his disciples on the storm-tossed sea shows that no obstacle or law of nature prevents his coming to them and full presence with them. God, being God, can share God’s self in the way that God wishes. The laws of the space-time continuum can never be strictures to the presence of Jesus’ love for us. Love transcends barriers and the infinite love of God transcends all barriers.

So, to repeat, *what concretely does Christ’s real presence mean in our lives?*

All people are social creatures, even the most introverted of us. Our shared experiences are the basis for our fellowship, and our fellowship is essential to who we are. Our shared experiences enable us to understand one another, to empathize with each other, to be there for others and to support them. And we need to come together to be ourselves. We are ourselves in relation to others. We come together to share our common experiences and in the process to be supported, encouraged, challenged.

There is nothing that can take the place of human involvement, human togetherness, human presence. Just knowing that you are not going through this alone, that there is another person there with you who will feel for you and stay with you in difficult times or with whom you can share joy in good times—because joy is always a shared reality . . .

But in our deepest selves we also sense that there is more than human interaction that is at the core of our selves. It is the longing that St. Augustine wrote about in referring to God: “Our hearts are restless until they rest in You.” Somehow the fullness of our shared humanity comes together and attains its fulfillment in our relation with God, which culminates in heaven. But although it culminates there, it begins here on earth. This is the promise of the real presence of Christ: that with us in the fullness of His divinity and humanity is the One in whom all togetherness achieves its deepest meaning, significance, richness. The real presence is the presence of the One in whom all relationships are nourished and fulfilled through the love of the One Who shares our experiences and remains with us and for us.

“Christ the God-Man,” who “is wholly and entirely present in the Eucharist,” comes to us in the fullness of his shared experiences of our common humanity. In our communion with him, we are in communion with one who has gone through what we have gone through. This Jesus comes to remain with us, to be with us in our needs and cares and anxieties and sorrows and hopes and joys and dreams and love. The wonder of it all is that Jesus comes to us powerfully in the fullness of his divinity and humanity, to be there with us and for us in all of our experiences . Real Presence—God in Jesus shares God’s self fully.

Be sealed with the Holy Spirit !

~ Bishop Schuerman



CONFIRMATION 2023

Oliver Alberg

Julia Bongert

Zachary Denneau

Maeve Edmund

Rachel Gasser

Ava Herrick

Eva Herro

Alison Hess

Catherine Holmes

Mara Holzen

Katherine Kirby

Emily Miner

Nicole Nordness

Ramsey Raddemann

Michael Reed

Angel Renteria

Andrea Rifelj

Christopher Sinclair

Anne Stauff

Cole Wadina

Mia Weithaus

Elyse Wendler



PASTORAL COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

Meeting Location: St. Joseph Room

Date/Time: April 19, 2023 – 6:30 pm.

Notes By: Padge Haas

Attendees: Father Adam Fernandez, Joe Herro, Alana Wilgus, Joe Schueller, Padge Haas, Sandy Schmitt, Tom Zimmerman, Julie McKendry, Larry Barbian, Suzanne Silman, Nate Zilles, and Katie Morgan

Excused: Audrey Szews, Jose Gallegos

Meeting started at 6:30 pm with an opening prayer by Joe Herro.

The agenda was approved.

Committee Reports:

Prayer and Worship: Suzanne Silman told everyone that there will be a proper disposal of blessed items on the West Side of the Parish Center on Saturday April 29th at 2:00 pm. A rosary will be said around 2:45 pm. This area will then become a prayer garden.

Buildings and Grounds: Nate Zilles reported that the detention pond is being worked on. The committee is working on proposals for the sound system. The committee is looking at the lockers in the school to decide what should be done in that area. He said the committee is working on prioritizing a list of long-term projects. And he asked if it was time to take down the large ash stump on the west side of the church.

Men's group: Joe Herro reported the group is wrapping up next week. They have been viewing a video series on Divine Mercy. Joe said the men's group is working in conjunction with St. Agnes' men's group and together they are considering options for next year.

Mother's Day: Julie McKendry reported that there will be a rose sale after each Mass on May 13-14. The roses will be \$3.00 each. All proceeds will go to Pro Life WI. She is in need of two people to help with the sale after each Mass.

Justice Training Session: Tom Zimmerman said there will be a training session on April 20th for parish members who would be willing to interview Wauwatosa parish members about justice. This is being done by Catholic Parishes in Wauwatosa.

Saint Vincent DePaul: Joe Schuller stated that the committee is doing home visits for people that need help. He said the number of people requesting assistance has gone up recently.

St. Joseph Home and School Association: Katie Morgan reported that the group has been meeting to discuss / review policies like the dress code, discipline, and electronics to make things more uniform and updated. They are currently working on their budget. Their next meeting is May 4, 2023 at 6:45 pm.

Formation: Larry Barbian reported that they are working on getting a new Director of Child & Youth Ministry. He said Stephanie will be leading the Vacation Bible School June 12 -16th at St. Joseph. That will complete her job as Youth Minister.

Parish Life: Anne Mallinger sent a report stating the committee would be having a meeting in May to plan for next year. At this time they are planning a pancake breakfast in September, a trivia night in November, and the Soup & Chili Cook-off in January. The rest is TBD.

Athletic Department: Amy Ford reported the Biergarten will be held September 16, 2023. And she said there would be a golf outing on October 1, 2023.

Continuing Business:

Come To Me Campaign: Audrey Szews sent a report stating that the Pray and Play events will continue after the 10:30 am Mass as a way to encourage people to come to Mass and join the community again. The events will continue through the summer and it is hoped they will move from the gym to the outside playground as weather permits. The April 30 Pray and Play will be held in conjunction with donut Sunday. The dates will be listed in the bulletin and hopefully be held twice a month.

Parish Mission Planning Team (SWOT): The next step for this group is to have a questionnaire for parishioners to get their feedback. They are looking for themes that need to be worked on. The questionnaire will be forthcoming.

Bible Study/Prayer Group list: Julie McKendry stated that there is one more group to get their information from. The information is being given to Dave Niles. This is to let parishioners know these things are available for them. The information will be in the parish directory

New Business

Eucharistic Revival: Sandy Schmitt reported there will be two articles in the bulletin and Newsletter. One will give an overview explaining the reasons, goals and process for the Eucharistic Revival and the second article will be on the Real Presence of Christ in the Eucharist. On June 10-11, 2023, Corpus Christi Sunday, we will have our kickoff. There will be a Revival Banner on the North Wall of the Parish Center and Eucharistic Revival A-Frame sign in the Church. There will be a Eucharistic Procession.

The final decisions on the procession will be made by Father John who will be here at that time. Between July and December there will be one or more talks on the Eucharist. Parish group participations will integrate the Mass and Eucharist into their programs. The Eucharistic Revival will be integrated into the school's religious curriculums. There will be more homilies preached on the Eucharist and there will be more opportunities for Eucharistic Adoration. There was a discussion about having a training for Eucharistic Ministers and the idea of bringing Holy Communion to those who cannot attend Mass with a blessing at Mass for those who will be bringing the Eucharistic to those unable to come to Mass.

Parish Council Fabric: Joe Herro laid out his vision for the Pastoral Council. He would like to bring the Council membership back to 10-12 members. We currently have six members, the minimum required. He would like a mix of people who have ideas and participate in the parish to make up the Council. Meetings are held the third Wednesday of the month at 6:30 pm taking July and December off. It is his desire to keep the meetings to an hour in length. He asked each current Council member to pray about this and suggest possible new members. If anyone is interested, please contact Joe Herro. Joe ended by saying, "Together we thrive." Julie McKendry handed out the Parish Councils Manual for Parish and Pastoral Councils to those members who did not have one.

Miscellaneous

Father Adam announced he will be gone from May 11 – June 12. He will be traveling to India.

The next Pastoral Council Meeting will be May 17, 2023 at 6:30 pm.

The meeting adjourned at 7:20 pm with a Closing Prayer by Father Adam.



Your Pastoral Council invites you to
join us anytime!

JUST VISITING.....



Genevieve & JJ ride to school in a FIRETRUCK!

This week, third grade student Genevieve Lazzara and her brother JJ in K5, were the lucky auction winners who won a ride to school in a Wauwatosa fire truck!

It was an exciting and unforgettable day, and fun to be greeted by their classmates!



SO MUCH FUN AND EXCITEMENT!!!!

Mass Schedule

Tuesday Thru Friday: 8:15am

Saturday (Vigil): 4:00pm

Sunday: 8:00am & 10:30am

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