August 25, 2019

**THE EUCHARIST, A MYSTERY TO BE BELIEVED**

**"This is the work of God: that you believe
in him whom he has sent" (Jn 6:29)**

**The Church's eucharistic faith**

6. "The mystery of faith!" With these words, spoken immediately after the words of consecration, the priest proclaims the mystery being celebrated and expresses his wonder before the substantial change of bread and wine into the body and blood of the Lord Jesus, a reality which surpasses all human understanding.

The Eucharist is a "mystery of faith" par excellence: "the sum and summary of our faith."

The Church's faith is essentially a eucharistic faith, and it is especially nourished at the table of the Eucharist. Faith and the sacraments are two complementary aspects of ecclesial life. Awakened by the preaching of God's word, faith is nourished and grows in the grace-filled encounter with the Risen Lord which takes place in the sacraments: "faith is expressed in the rite, while the rite reinforces and strengthens faith."

For this reason, the Sacrament of the Altar is always at the heart of the Church's life: "thanks to the Eucharist, the Church is reborn ever anew!" The more lively the eucharistic faith of the People of God, the deeper is its sharing in ecclesial life in steadfast commitment to the mission entrusted by Christ to his disciples. The Church's very history bears witness to this. Every great reform has in some way been linked to the rediscovery of belief in the Lord's eucharistic presence among his people.

(from the document **Sacramentum Caritatis** by Pope Benedict XVI, Feb 22, 2007)

***Twenty-first Sunday in Ordinary Time***

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

Last weekend in the homily I referenced a Pew Study that claims that 69% of those who call themselves Catholic believe that the Eucharist is merely a symbol. The point being that they do not believe that it is the Body and Blood of the Lord.

Polls and statistics and the interpretation of the results can be tricky. In this case, the researchers give more information than just that solitary figure. They report that there are several categories of these “Catholics” who don’t believe:

* Those who know the Church’s teaching (22%)
* Those who mistakenly think that the Church teaches that the Eucharist is a symbol (43%)
* Those who do not know what the Church teaches (4%)

**So, almost 2/3rds of those who think the Eucharist is merely a symbol think that they believe what the Church teaches!**

My friends this is crisis of Faith. The Church has always taught that the bread and wine at Mass become the Eucharist, the Body and Blood of Jesus. The Gospels carefully record the institution of the Eucharist on the night before Jesus died at the end of the Last Supper. St. Paul speaks of the doctrine in his letters. The Fathers of the Church repeatedly taught this to the generations that followed.

Many heretics have proposed alternatives to the Church’s teaching and still promote their false ideas. There have been great doctrinal arguments about this doctrine which the Church has always settled by confirming the reality of the Presence of the Body and Blood (with no trace of the bread and wine remaining).

But how could the central teaching of the Church become so lost on those who call themselves Catholic? That question would have to answered individually for each one. Is it possible that Catholic teachers have taught something different than what the Church has passed down? That has happened throughout the history of the Church, but Her doctrine has never changed.

It is our responsibility to transmit the true Faith to all of our parishioners and to all of our family members. When couples get married in the Church, they make a promise to educate their children in the Catholic Faith. That is also a promise not to change the teaching!

It is truly an oddity that someone would identify themselves as Catholic and reject the source and summit of our Faith. St. Padre Pio famously said, “the world would do better without the sun, than to do without the Holy Mass!”

Mother of the Eucharist, pray for us!

Fr. Martin Flum

**ENCOUNTER GRACE WOMEN’S CONFERENCE**

A day with you in mind…

Join us Saturday, October 26, 2019 for our annual women’s conference on the campus of St. Mary’s Ryken High School in historic Leonardtown Maryland. It is a day filled with inspirational talks, engaging break-out sessions, time for prayer, reflection, Adoration and confession - all designed with you in mind so that no matter where you are on your faith journey, you can recharge and refocus, getting back to the basics of the faith, ready to **BEGIN AGAIN**. Please visit <https://www.encountergrace.co> for information about the conference including schedule, speakers, lodging and conference tickets.

**READINGS FOR THE WEEK OF August 25, 2019**

**Share the Gospel - Challenge of the Week**

This week, discuss the teaching of the Church with friends or family about the Eucharist by opening the Catechism and reading the sections on the Eucharist. There you will find what the Church teaches (especially #1373-1381).

“At the heart of the Eucharistic celebration are the bread and wine that, by the words of Christ and the invocation of the Holy Spirit, become Christ's Body and Blood.” (CCC #1333)

Then say a little prayer for those who identify as Catholic that they will come to a profound appreciation for the Real Presence of Jesus Christ in the Eucharist. Ask our Lady of the Blessed Sacrament to lead those souls ever closer to her Son in the tabernacle!

**Take up the challenge; lead souls to Christ uniquely present in sacramental mystery in our Church!**

Monday:         1 Thes 1:1-5, 8b-10/Ps 149/Mt 23:13-22
Tuesday:        1 Thes 2:1-8/Ps 139/Mt 23:23-26
Wednesday:   1 Thes 2:9-13/Ps 139/Mt 23:27-32
Thursday:       1 Thes 3:7-13/Ps 90/Mk 6:17-29

Friday: 1 Thes 4:1-8/Ps 97/Mt 25:1-13
Saturday:       1 Thes 4:9-11/Ps 98/Mt 25:14-30
Next Sunday: Sir 3:17-18, 20, 28-29/Ps 68/Heb 12:18-19,22-24a/

 Lk 14:1, 7-14

**PLEASE PRAY FOR THE SICK**

For those who suffer from chronic illness especially, Madison Brady, Ann Canter, Charlene Cardwell, Tom Cardwell, Joyce Chambers, Thomas Chambers, Jackie Chapman, Brianna Daniels, Kathy Fisher, Marie Knobel, Wanda Langley, Adam Lumpkins, Rachel Makle, Mike Mohun, Regina Nasatka, Joyce Pickeral, Rev. Robert Pittman, Doris Riess, Dawn Russo, Lucille Shanks, Dee Smith, Geraldine Stewart, Willie Stewart, George Thomas, and Belinda Windsor, may they not grow weary under their burden but be strengthened by the God’s love for them.

**MASS INTENTIONS**

Saturday,      08/24/19     5pm  Parishioners & their families

Sunday,         08/25/19     8am     Louis Miller, Jr. ****

Sunday,         08/25/19     10am   James & Tiffany Grimes

Sunday,         08/25/19   11:30am   Louis Miller, Jr. ****

Monday, 08/26/19 8am Liz Sullivan

Tuesday, 08/27/19 8am Art & Dolores Lause ****

Wed., 08/28/19 8am Louis Miller, Jr. ****

Thursday,     08/29/19      8am      Bishop Mark Brennan

Friday, 08/30/19 8am Eucharistic Adoration

**2019 PARISH DINNER FINANCIAL RESULTS**

*Income*

Ticket Sales$ 8,234

Bake Table                                            $ 960

50/50                                                     $ 6,025

Donations                                             $ 5,574

                Total Income                      $ 20,793

*Expenses*

Bailey’s Catering                                  $ 4,363

Raffle payout                                        $ 1,500

Other Expenses                                    $     851

                Total Expenses                     $ 6,714

**TOTAL PROFIT:                                   $ 14,079**

**The committee would like to thank all of you who worked the Dinner, contributed items and supported it financially. What a great success! This year we had some unique raffle items, the possibility of taking credit cards at the door and the same joyful spirit!**

**ST. MICHAEL’S MINISTRY SCHEDULE FOR NEXT WEEK**

**Saturday, 08/31/19 5pm**

**Rosary Leader:** Irene Goldsmith  **Lector**: Arlene Bloom

**Server:** Claude Boswell EMHC: Irene Goldsmith

Sunday 09/01/19 **8am**

**Rosary Leader:** Betty Lindsay **Lector**: Jeanine Wilson

**Server:** Dan Wilson **EMHC:** TBD

**Sunday, 09/01/19** 11:30am

**Rosary Leader**: Kevin Mondorff **Lector:** Maureen Ingle

**Server:** Taylor Nickens  **EMHC:** TBD

**HOLY ANGELS CHURCH SEAFOOD DINNER**

Holy Angel's seafood dinner will be held on **Sunday, September 8th from 11:30 a.m. to 4 p.m**. Menu includes crab balls, steamed spiced shrimp, fried oysters, fried chicken, parsley potatoes, homemade coleslaw, green beans, pickled beets, rolls, Jello and beverages. Adult tickets - $28, carry-outs - $26, advance tickets until August 31st - $26, children ages 6 to 12 - $8 and under 5 eat free. Raffle, bake table, and craft tables will be available. For information and advance tickets, please call 301-769-3332.

**FOOD PANTRY**

Some of the food pantry supplies are running low. As always, we accept any nonperishable items, but there is need for: sugar, flour, cooking oil, cake mixes, corn muffin mixes and soups. Thank you so much for your continued support to help others in need!

**OUR SACRIFICIAL OFFERINGS**

**St. Michael’s**

Offertory Collection for August 17th & 18th $ 3,595.00

**St. Dominic’s**

Offertory Collection for August 18th $ 1,258.00

**CCD REGISTRATION**

CCD Registration is now open! If your children or grandchildren are of school age and not in Catholic school, please register them for religious instruction. Classes are starting on Tuesday, September 10th at 6:45 PM. You can register at the office/ online: <https://stmichaelsbaden.weconnect.com/CCD-Registration-Form> If the child was not baptized at St. Michael’s or St. Dominic’s, please mail a copy of the child’s sacramental certificate(s) to the parish office. Tuition is $30 per child. Any questions, please call 240-681-3551.