

June 18, 2017 **The Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ**

MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday, June 17

5:00 p.m. **+Ronald Semonche**
By Rachael and Family

Sunday, June 18

8:00 a.m. **+Antonietta and Sabino Antinolfi**
By Daughter

10:30 a.m. **+George Reynolds**
By Susan and Larry Rineer

Monday, June 19 *Saint Romuald*

8:45 a.m. **+Sergio and Sabina Cappelluti**
By Sam and Marietta Tridente

Tuesday, June 20

8:45 a.m. **+Msgr. Michael Kseniak**
By Jim and Eileen Mattison

Wednesday, June 21 *Saint Aloysius Gonzaga*

8:45 a.m. **In Honor of the Madonna of Health**
By Angela Gross

Thursday, June 22 (NO MASS) *Saint Thomas More*

Friday, June 23 *The Most Sacred Heart of Jesus*

8:45 a.m. **Parishioners of Saint Theodore Church**

Saturday, June 24

5:00 p.m. **+Frances Blevins**
By Rachael and Family

Sunday, June 25

8:00 a.m. **Parishioners of Saint Theodore Church**

10:30 a.m. **In Thanksgiving of Blessed Margaret of
Castello, O.P.**

By Barbara Kovacs



The Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ

The past three Sundays we have proclaimed and celebrated three of the most important mysteries of our Catholic faith. Three weeks

ago we celebrated the Lord's glorious Ascension, two weeks ago we recalled and renewed the Pentecost mystery, and this past Sunday, as you remember, we were blessed with the greatest mystery of our Catholic lives, the mystery of the Blessed Trinity, the wonderful mystery of three divine persons totally in love and communion with one another. Now that we have returned to so-called Ordinary Time in our Church's liturgical year, one might reasonably expect green vestments and the ordinary Sunday cycle. Such, however is not the case. We are graced

with another great mystery and liturgical feast, that of Corpus Christi, the Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ.

Although the mystery of the Eucharist is not mentioned in the profession of faith, which we will shortly make, it is, nonetheless, one of the most significant beliefs and elements of our Catholic faith. The Second Vatican Council proclaimed that the Mass, the Eucharistic Sacrifice, is "the source and summit of the Christian life." Pope John Paul II in his encyclical letter on the Eucharist stated: "The Church has received the Eucharist from Christ her Lord not as one gift—however precious—among so many others, but as the gift par excellence, for it is the gift of himself, of his person in his sacred humanity, as well as the gift of his saving work."

The three very significant mysteries which we celebrated in our liturgy the past three weeks, is true likewise of the Eucharist: We fail sufficiently to grasp and appreciate its profound meaning and vital importance.

Why do we need a feast of the Eucharist? A feast like this affords us the opportunity to give God collective thanks for Christ's abiding presence with us which is made visible in the Eucharist. It is also an opportunity for us to seek a better understanding of the sacrament of the Body and Blood of Christ since the Eucharist is a sacrament of life. As St Paul wrote to the Corinthians, "All who eat and drink in an unworthy manner, without discerning the Lord's body eat and drink judgment against themselves. For this reason many of you are weak and ill, and some have died" (1 Corinthians 11:29-30).

Jesus promised to be with us until the end of time (Matthew 28:20). In the Eucharist he provides a visible sign and an effective means of him being present to us and us being present to him. As Jesus himself said, "Those who eat my flesh and drink my blood abide in me, and I in them." Jesus said that he came that we may have life and have it to the full (John 20:20). In the Eucharist he provides a visible means of communicating this life to us so that we can be fully alive both in this world and in the next. As Jesus said, "Very truly, I tell you, unless you eat the flesh of the

Son of Man and drink his blood, you have no life in you. Those who eat my flesh and drink my blood have eternal life, and I will raise them up on the last day” (John 6:53-54).

The Eucharist is true food and drink but at the same time it is very different from every other food and drink. The great difference lies in these words of Christ which St Augustine heard in prayer, “You will not change me into yourself as you would food of your flesh; but you will be changed into me.” We transform ordinary food into our own bodies but the food of the Eucharist transforms us into the body of Christ.

Let us today approach the Eucharist with a more lively faith in the real presence of Jesus in the Eucharist and we shall experience therein God's saving power and transforming love.

A Note from Father Damian

I will be on vacation the month of June. During my absence, Father Piotr Pasterczyk, a professor at the Catholic University in Poland, will be taking care of my priestly duties. I will remember you in my prayers and ask that you remember me in yours.

Mary Rupell has been working from home and will continue to do so until cleared by her physician to return to the office. Please contact her with any questions or requests: sttheodorenj@gmail.com or 908-246-2698



Stephen, Bridget M., Savannah Paine, Bobby Gross, Keira Hedges, Peter, Zachary, Logan Peter Saksa, Anna Paine, Anna Saksa, Lauren Lane, Jay Mildrum, Philip Kinney, Kerry Kraft, Peter S., Mary Supple, Mary Rupell, Patty Mahoney, Susan Reynolds, Millie B., Robert Dicheck, Christian, Tara, Zoe, Teagan



St. Theodore Church participates in collecting food for the **Food Pantry in Washington, NJ., which serves the area's needy.** This is an ongoing ministry and, even though

winter has passed, the hungry of the area still needs our help. If you would like to take part in feeding the hungry, please drop off your

nonperishable food in our Parish Center or Narthex. Deliveries are made by parishioners on a regular basis. Thank you and God Bless.



The Sacred Heart stands as a powerful symbol of the whole human body of Jesus Christ. The heart is at its core, representing the very real life of Jesus our Savior; a heart which was formed in Mary's womb; a heart which beat as he preached the Good News and healed the sick; a heart that stopped on the cross and was then pierced by the soldiers lance. It is also the heart that beats once more at the Resurrection and continues to do so for us today.

The Sacred Heart of Jesus is therefore a powerful reminder of the love of Christ poured out for us all. It is at once a representation of His divine love and His human love. In the Sacred Heart we see the love of God which created the heavens and the earth; a love which created humankind and then redeemed us in our fallen nature. But the Sacred Heart is also one of fully human love; one which expressed itself in the love of Jesus for His Mother; the love of Jesus for His disciples, and the love which He showed for all He preached to and cared for. It was a love that was able to forgive those who nailed Him to a cross.

If we sometimes feel disconnected from the overwhelming, and frankly incomprehensible, divine love which created us and sustains us, then the Sacred Heart serves to remind us of all the human heart is capable of. It was this human heart of Christ which loved to its fullest extent and which rebukes us for our lack of love toward God and neighbor. It is a heart which can teach us that, through grace, we too are capable of loving God, ourselves and others to a degree which we may have thought impossible. *“The love of God has been poured out into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us”.* (Romans 5:5).

We often reject this love of God and have done so throughout our human history. But the love of the Sacred Heart of Jesus does not cease upon rejection; it loves all the more. When the soldier pierced Christ's side, His heart did not close but instead opened, and out flowed the blood and water of our redemption. It is the great mystery of this total and reckless love of Christ for us, and the invitation to share in it and love in return, which marks devotion to the Sacred Heart. We are called to love as totally and recklessly as Him who gave His life for us. ***Solemnity of the Sacred Heart of Jesus: June 23***