

# St. John's Newsletter



**Instituted on Holy Thursday**

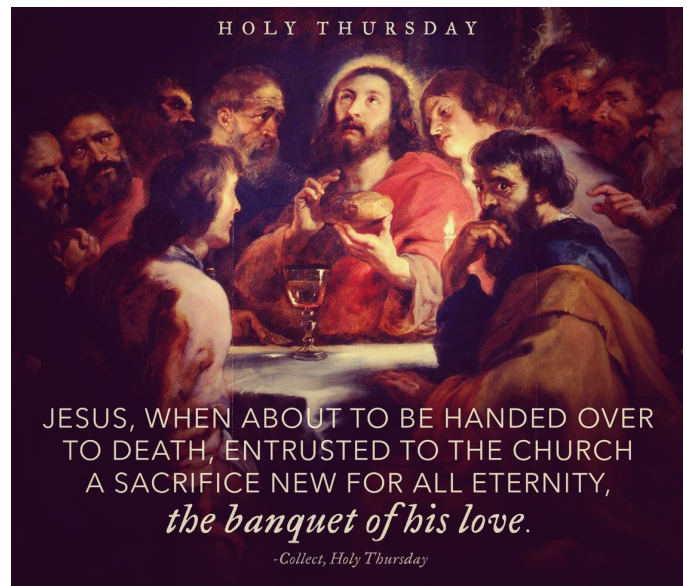
## **Holy Eucharist – The Real Presence of Jesus**

At every Mass, we hear the words spoken by Jesus during the Passover Meal with his Apostles on Holy Thursday – before he was betrayed, questioned, beaten, mocked, rejected, crucified and died.

Since the very beginning of the Church, Catholics have believed that the words of Jesus repeated by the priest bring about the REAL Presence of Jesus, the Pascal lamb sacrificed for us, in the bread and wine.

The miracle of transubstantiation of the bread and wine

into Jesus is a core belief of the Catholic faith that separates us from many other Christian denominations.



### **Holy Thursday**

April 6, 2023

Mass – 7 pm

Followed by Adoration at the  
Chapel until Midnight

While the Real Presence is a core teaching of the Church, a recent Pew Center national survey reported that just over 30 percent of US Catholics surveyed believe in the Real Presence. One can argue with the wording and sample size, but even other surveys indicate a lack of understanding or belief in the Real Presence of Jesus. In response, the United States Council of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) is developing a Eucharistic Revival including a national Eucharistic Congress coming in 2024. The focus on

the Eucharist as the Source and Summit of our Faith is welcome.

Rev. Fr. John Louis attributed the lack of understanding is a result of familiarity of what happens at the Mass. Are we too familiar and suffer from Acquired Routine Deficiency Syndrome? Are we on auto pilot and forget the miracle of the true presence of Jesus with us every time? Are we too complacent with communion and “forget” that we are receiving the Body of Jesus into our own bodies and hearts? Do we remember?

Jesus becomes present with us every time – Body, Blood, Soul and Divinity – in the consecration at the Mass. The Eucharist is the promise of Jesus in the Gospel of John Chapter 6: *“Then Jesus said to them: I am the Bread of life. Whoever comes to me shall not hunger, and whoever believes in me shall never thirst...This is the bread which descends from heaven, so that if anyone will eat from it, he may not die. I am the living bread, who descended from heaven. If anyone eats from this bread, he shall live in eternity. And the bread that I will give is my flesh, for the life of the world.”*

### **Adoration**

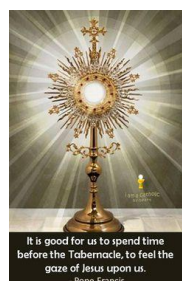
You can visit Jesus during Adoration with the Blessed Sacrament every Thursday at 8:30 (after the morning Mass) in the Chapel. The Blessed Sacrament is exposed until 10 am. The Divine Mercy Chaplet begins at 10 am followed by the Benediction. We have anointing of the sick every last Thursday of the month immediately after Divine Mercy Chaplet.

Sources: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AGNzL2a37So>

<https://prayer.catholicshare.com/real-presence-jesus-eucharist/>

<https://equippinggodlywomen.com/faith/is-the-eucharist-really-just-a-symbol/>

<https://media.ascensionpress.com/2019/08/16/how-accurate-is-the-pew-survey-on-the-eucharist/>



Volume 14 -April 2023 -- St. John's Newsletter is a once-a-month publication aimed at providing you with items of interest about our Catholic faith. If there is a topic you are interested in, please contact the parish office and we will try to address it in future issues. – Submitted by Mary Jo Peters