

**The Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ
June 23, 2019**

From the Desk of Rev. Fr. Anthony C. Ekanem, MSP

**MOST HOLY BODY AND BLOOD OF CHRIST
(CORPUS CHRISTI)**

Today we celebrate the mysterious presence of the Lord Jesus with the community of believers. This was instituted at the Last Supper by our Lord Jesus and left for us as a memorial and a Sacrament of the Eucharist. "Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood will live in me and I in him, says the Lord." (Communion Ant.). We are people of God journeying in faith towards the Promised Land of eternal life. Just like in summer, we need water to quench our thirst, so too do we need food to satisfy our spiritual hunger in this journey of faith. This sustenance is found in the Eucharistic celebration we part take; where we are fed body and soul which is far more precious than the manna which sustained the Israelites in the desert.

The First Reading tells how Melchizedek, King of Salem (early name for Jerusalem), comes to greet Abraham. Melchizedek is also a priest. As such he brings an offering of bread and wine to Abraham, and pronounces a blessing over him. In Christian tradition that bread and wine were taken to prefigure the bread and wine of the Eucharist.

Paul's account of the institution of the Eucharist is the earliest written account of the origin of the Eucharist (Second Reading). When we celebrate the Eucharist not merely is Christ present, but we re-enact the death by which He saved us. The Eucharist not only looks to the past, also looks forward to the fulfillment of the kingdom. Eucharistic celebration offers us an opportunity to participate as members of His mystical body, the Heavenly Banquet prepared for us.

In the three readings today, we see what forms the rituals we have at the Eucharistic celebration. From Melchizedek and Abraham to Jesus and the multitudes, food is shared and God's blessing is invoked. St Luke uses the same words here as at the Last Supper and at Emmanus: Jesus 'Took Blessed Broke Gave ...' In the Eucharist, the Church continues the mission of Jesus to teach, to heal and to nourish the people of God.

As we are looking forward to our celebration of the Eucharist; this twofold of our sustenance, let us take note of the elements of this ritual and ask our Most High God to bless them for us and make us worthy of this Sacrament of His love.

Stewardship

Tithing - God's Plan for Giving Sunday for 06/16/19 our Offering was \$3,007.00.

Food Collection: Next Sunday will be our monthly food collection for the needy in our community.

2019 Cardinal's Annual Stewardship Appeal Update

Goal: \$39,500

Total Amount Paid: \$26,492.00

Total Amount Pledged: \$31,884.00

Number of Families: 104

If you haven't had the chance to make your contribution, there is there still time. You can use the pledge letters that have already arrived at your home. And if you have not received one or have never made a pledge before, it is very easy to do so online. Just go to www.cardinalsappeal.org, click on Donate, select an amount, and direct your gift to our Church:

Immaculate Conception, Yonkers

Sundays Readings:

First Reading: *Genesis 14:18-20 p. 48* Melchizedek, king of Salem and priest of God Most High, brought bread and wine, blessing Abram and the creator of heaven and earth, who delivered Abram's enemies into his hands.

Responsorial Psalm: *Psalm 110:1,2p.49*

"You are a priest forever, in the line of Melchizedek!"

Second Reading: *1 Corinthians 11:23-26, p. 49* Paul handed on the tradition that the Lord Jesus broke bread with his disciples and drank the cup of the new covenant in his blood. Paul wrote, "As often as you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the death of the Lord until he comes."

Gospel: *Luke 9:11b-17 p. 50* After teaching about God's reign and healing those in need, Jesus took five loaves and two fish, raised his eyes to heaven, and blessed and broke them for his disciples to distribute to the crowd. Afterwards, leftovers fragments filled twelve wicker baskets.

Registration 2019-2020

Starts on Saturday

June 15, 2019 - July 31, 2019

(Wednesday & Thursday 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 pm)

Classes will begin September 7, 2019

All are welcome to our Up Coming Events

- **FIRST COMMUNION AND CONFIRMATION CLASSES:** Registration is going on now. Children in public School who will be entering First Grade through High School in September are eligible for these classes. Please call the Parish Office for our Parish Coordinator of Religious Education for more information
- **THE RITE OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION FOR ADULT:** (Sometimes known as RCIA or Convert class), will soon begin. Call the parish Office as we look at days convenient for the classes.
- **ALTAR SERVER:** If you have made your First Holy Communion and are now in Grades 5 – High School and are interested in becoming an Altar Server, please contact the Parish Office for more information.
- **BIBLE SHARING:** Do you want to learn more about the Word of God during the week in English language? Call and let us know whether Wednesday beginning in the month of September is convenient for you.
- Food Collection: Next Sunday will be our monthly food collection for the needy in our community. So please remember those in need when you grocery shop this week. As always thank you for your generosity.
- **Church Family Directory:** As we are brainstorming on how to go about getting the exact count of how many people are registered with us, we are looking into having a Parish Family Directory. If you are not registered, this is the time to contact the parish office, or use our registration form at the back of our parish bulletin. Thanks!

Mass Schedule for the week of

June 22, to June 29, 2019

Special Intentions for this week

Saturday, June 22, 2019:

12:05pm— Available/Disponibile

5:00pm - Roslynn Fajardo Birthday Blessings * Roselyn Fajardo

7:30pm - Anthony Cabrales *George Cabrales

Sunday, June 23, 2019:

7:30 am – For the Parishioners

9:00 am – Antonia Perez + *Children

11:00 am - George J. Russ + * Jenny Brown & Family

Monday, June 24, 2019:

8:15am - Available/Disponibile

12:05pm Mohorah Reyes

Tuesday June 25, 2019:

8:15am - Available/Disponibile

12:05pm – Available/Disponibile

Wednesday, June 26, 2019:

8:15am - Available/Disponibile

12:05 pm – Available/Disponibile

Thursday, June 27, 2019:

8:15am - Available/Disponibile

12:05 pm— Available/Disponibile

7:00 pm - Patricia Reyes in Thanksgiving

Friday, June 28, 2019:

8:15am - Available/Disponibile

12:05 pm – Available/Disponibile

Saturday, June 29, 2019:

12:05pm— Available/Disponibile

5:00pm - Joanne Kunny + * Adriana Pratt

7:30pm - Hilda Leon Fernandez *Mary Leon & Negrin Family

+ Indicates deceased

* Indicates the person (s) who requested the Mass.

~Request a Mass Intention~

Those wishing to honor a loved one during the celebration of Mass may pick up Mass cards in the parish office. Mass cards are available for the living and deceased and provided opportunities for prayerful remembrance of anniversaries, birthdays, and other special intentions. Masses are usually booked at least several months in advance so if you want the Mass, it is very important that you call the parish office well ahead of time.

Have you offered Mass for your Mother yet?