

My Dear Parishioners,

Praised be Jesus Christ! In June, among other feasts, we celebrate Feasts of Corpus Christi and the Sacred Heart of Jesus both of which hold a prime and special place in the Life of the Church. To ready ourselves for these feasts, I share with you an article from Kevin and Theresa Burke entitled “June: Journey to the Living, Beating Heart of the Catholic Faith.” May we find Life, Healing and Hope in Jesus.

Peace,
Father Rogers

June offers a unique opportunity to journey into the heart of Catholic devotion, and quite literally, to *the physical Heart of Jesus*, beginning with the Feast of Corpus Christi. Corpus Christi has its **roots** in the fervent Eucharistic devotion of a 13th century Belgian saint, Julianna of Cornillon. She had a vision of Jesus requesting a special feast to increase devotion to His presence in the Blessed Sacrament. She reported her vision to Archdeacon Jacques Panteleon and in 1246 the Bishop of Liege, Belgium, established the feast of the Blessed Sacrament.

Fourteen years later an Italian priest, who suffered doubts about the real presence of Jesus in the Eucharist, celebrated mass. At the moment of consecration, as the host was elevated, it began to bleed. Many witnessed this. The priest wrapped the bleeding host in corporals and brought the host and corporals to the Bishop at Orvieto. Providentially, the bishop brought this matter to the attention of Pope Urban IV, formerly Archdeacon Jacques Panteleon, to whom St. Julianna had initially confided her vision. The miracle was affirmed, and the host and corporals remain in Orvieto for veneration to this day. In 1264 Pope Urban IV established the feast of Corpus Christi for the universal Church.

Sadly, a 2019 **Pew Research Center survey** found that most self-described Catholics don’t believe in the real presence of Jesus in the Eucharist.

- Close to seven-in-ten Catholics (69%) say that during Catholic Mass, the bread and wine used in Communion “*are symbols of the body and blood of Jesus Christ.*”
- Just one-third of U.S. Catholics (31%) say they believe that “during Catholic Mass, the bread and wine actually become the body and blood of Jesus.”

It seems that once again, as in the 13th century, Heaven is responding to this growing ignorance among Catholics. Between 1992 and 2013 a series of miracles associated with the Eucharist were reported from Buenos Aires to Poland. In each of these cases, consecrated communion hosts turned into fleshy and bloody substances.

Using Modern Science to Study the Phenomena

The previously consecrated communion wafers were studied by a series of doctors and scientists. In a number of these cases, doctors were not told the source of the material, to further aid objectivity. Here’s what they **discovered**:

- The blood is human, AB blood type; human DNA was found... in one case, the blood clearly emanated from within, because the blood on the surface had begun to coagulate but the interior blood was still fresh, as with a bleeding wound.
- The flesh is human myocardium tissue of the left ventricle of an inflamed heart; in the miracles from Argentina and Poland, there was evidence of trauma from the presence of thrombi, indicating repeated lack of oxygen; lesions present showed rapid cardiac spasms typical in the final phases of death.
- In the Sokolka miracle, the remaining host is tightly interconnected with the fibers of human tissue, penetrating each other inseparably – as if the bread were transforming into flesh. “Even NASA scientists, who have at their disposal the most modern analytical techniques, would not be able to artificially recreate such a thing,” affirmed Dr. Sobaniec-Lotowska, one of the examining experts.

With this understanding of the Eucharist as the traumatized heart tissue of our crucified Lord, we enter an even deeper appreciation for the Feast of the Sacred Heart of Jesus, celebrated June 24. Devotion to the Sacred Heart presents the heart of Jesus encircled by thorns, crowned with the cross, and burning with love for the human family. This devotion dates back to the 11th century. St. Margaret Mary Alacoque had multiple visions of Jesus and the Sacred Heart between 1673 and 1675. Jesus shared 12 promises with St. Margaret Mary for those who honor the Sacred Heart. A few of these promises are particularly relevant in our day: Special graces for family peace and healing; comfort in times of trial, and most importantly, Jesus promised “sinners will find in My Heart, an infinite ocean of mercy.”

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A WORD FROM THE PASTOR—Continued:

The Heart of Healing: Restoring Trust after Abuse and Trauma

The scientific research with Eucharistic miracles reveals a powerful connection between the Sacred Heart of Jesus devotion and the real presence of Jesus in the Eucharist: Jesus wants to, quite literally, share his heart with us in *intimate communion*.

But those who have experienced abortion and other abuse can struggle to process their experiences, to grieve or to trust others. This can impact their relationship with God, and the ability to receive the love, mercy and healing that emanate from the heart of Jesus.

Thankfully, healing programs are available that incorporate psychological treatments with special Scripture meditations and the sacraments of the church. The emotional and spiritual healing process safely opens the heart and soul so participants can work through those painful events and come to see they are not alone. Light begins to shine where there was darkness. As the healing progresses, the heart softens, and is open to receive God’s forgiveness, healing and mercy.

May the great feasts and devotions of this holy month draw you closer to the merciful Heart of Christ Jesus.



PRAYING FROM THE DEPTHS OF THE PSALMS

Fr. John Henry Hanson, O. Praem.

“The Psalms speak with us and for us – they express to God the joys, sufferings, anxieties, and exaltations of the human heart. They thereby teach us how to pray.” -- Dr. Aaron Kheriaty

In this book, Fr. John Henry show us that, within the Psalms and with the company of the saints, we are in good fellowship in life’s journey. Showing us how to pray them, and not just read them, he reveals an invaluable path of simplicity towards an unbroken unity with God – finding grace in all – amidst the joys and sorrows, tediums and varieties life has to offer.

“PRAYING FROM THE DEPTHS OF THE PSALMS” –

A MID-SUMMER JOURNEY PRAYING WITH THE PSALMS

WEDNESDAY NIGHTS IN JULY

JULY 6, 13, 20, & 27

7:30 PM – 8:30 PM

ST. JOSEPH ROOM

Please join Father Rogers and fellow parishioner Anne Marie Gillinger for a book discussion group this summer as we unpack the beauty of the Psalms through the lens of Fr. John Henry Hanson. Each evening will include prayer and group discussion. A copy of the book will be made available to those who may not already have one. If you are interested in participating, please contact Jen Keller in the parish office at 610-444-4364 / jenkellersp@gmail.com or sign up online through your weekly parish flocknote. We hope that you will join us. 236

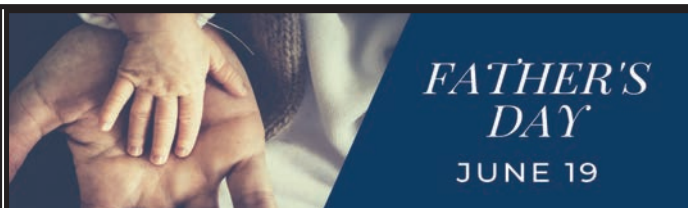


**SOLEMNITY OF CORPUS CHRISTI
SUNDAY, JUNE 19**



*“For my flesh is true food, and my blood is true drink.”
John 6:55*

Next week we celebrate the solemnity of corpus Christi. We will have a simple Eucharistic Procession-around the Church-after the 12 Noon Mass. Please plan on joining us.



FATHER’S DAY CARDS celebrate Father’s Day on June 19, 2022. Father’s Day cards are currently available for pick up in the back of church. Please drop off your completed card and donation to the Parish Office. Thank you!