



The Feast of the Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ

Today we celebrate the solemnity of the most holy Body and Blood of Christ popularly called the feast of Corpus Christi. This feast is at the center and heart of our church, the center and heart of our faith, the center and heart of parish, and the center and heart of our lives. The Catechism of the Catholic Church says that it is “the source and summit of Christian life.” Why? It is because the Eucharist is not something but someone. It is Christ Himself. In the Eucharist, Christ is truly present—body, blood, soul and divinity.

In the first reading, we see Melchizedek offering Abraham bread and wine when he returned after having defeated his enemies. Melchizedek was the high priest at that time, and he blessed Abraham. Abraham in return offered one tenth of everything. In the second reading, Paul recalls the night when Jesus instituted the new Passover, the Eucharist. In the gospel, we have the feeding of the five thousand. It is one of the miracles found in all four of the gospels. In today’s gospel, Luke says that the miracle took place in a deserted place. That reminds us of Israelites who journeyed through the desert for 40 years. God miraculously fed the people with Mana in the desert so that they could journey to the Promised Land. So, feeding the 5,000 is the echo of the miracle of manna in the desert. Thus, it is not about people sharing the food they had but about God working a miracle to feed His people. Jesus began a new exodus with His death and resurrection. In this new exodus—our journey to the new Promised Land of Heaven, we are fed with bread and wine, the body and blood of Christ.

Some find it difficult to believe that bread and wine truly are changed into the Body and Blood of Jesus. We do not see any change in the bread or wine. There is no difference in the taste. The bread still tastes like bread, and the wine still tastes like wine. It goes against science. However, science cannot explain everything. Faith goes beyond science. We need to be humble and open to God performing a miracle every day in this church—the miracle of the Eucharist. God can perform miracles every day, making it possible for bread and wine to become the Body and Blood of Jesus while keeping the same appearance. To help us believe, from time to time, God has allowed visible miracles of the Eucharist to occur. I would like to share two of those miracles.

In the year 1263, a priest was making a pilgrimage to Rome, asking God to strengthen his faith, because he was having doubts about his vocation. Along the way, he stopped in Bolsena, 70 miles north of Rome. While celebrating Mass there, as he raised the host during the consecration, the bread

turned into flesh and began to bleed. The drops of blood fell onto the small white cloth on the altar. The following year, Pope Urban IV instituted the Feast of the Body and Blood of Jesus. That blood-stained cloth can still be seen in the Basilica of Orvieto, north of Rome. I had the privilege of seeing it during a visit to Italy. Although that is the Eucharistic miracle that led to the institution of this feast, a more famous Eucharistic miracle took place in Lanciano in Italy in the year 700 AD.

A monk who had doubts regarding the Eucharist was celebrating Mass—and during the consecration, the host turned into flesh, and the wine turned into blood. Despite the fact that the miracle took place almost 1,300 years ago, the host turned to flesh is still preserved and exposed every day. The blood is in a glass chalice. The blood has congealed and is now in five clots in the glass chalice. A scientific test has revealed that the flesh is myocardium, which is heart muscular tissue. So, we can say it is the heart of Jesus—the Sacred Heart. The blood is of the blood group AB.

In 1978, the NASA scientists tested the blood on the Shroud of Turin and, interestingly, also discovered that it is of the same blood group AB. One final interesting point about the five blood clots in the chalice is that when you weigh one of them, it is the same weight as all five together. In fact, no matter what way you combine the blood clots individually or in a group to weigh them, they always weigh the same. This shows that the full Jesus is present in a particle of the Eucharist, no matter how small.

These are two Eucharistic miracles that have been authenticated by the Church after investigation. But there are many more Eucharistic miracles throughout the world that have been authenticated by the Church. All of these authenticated Eucharistic miracles throughout the world are surely an answer to any doubts we may have about Jesus in the Eucharist.

Jesus is really with us in the Eucharist. Jesus comes to us in every Mass under the form of bread and wine. The Eucharist is a celebration of the love of Jesus for us. Therefore, we need to always approach Jesus in the Eucharist with great respect. The moment of receiving Holy Communion is an important time during Mass. When we receive Jesus, Jesus is in us, and we are with Jesus.

We have Eucharistic Adoration on Monday through Friday. In the morning, it is in the St. Clare chapel; and in the afternoon, it is at the Historic Church. We have an all-night Adoration on all first Friday nights.

Jesus said, “He who eats my body and drinks my blood abides in me and I in him.” (John 6:56). As a sign of our love for Jesus, we will have a Eucharistic procession today at 3:30 in the afternoon from Troy Field to the Historic Church. All are welcome to join.

May Jesus in the Eucharist always be the very center and heart of our church, the center and heart of our faith, the center and heart of our parish, and the center and heart of your families.

Happy Father’s Day!