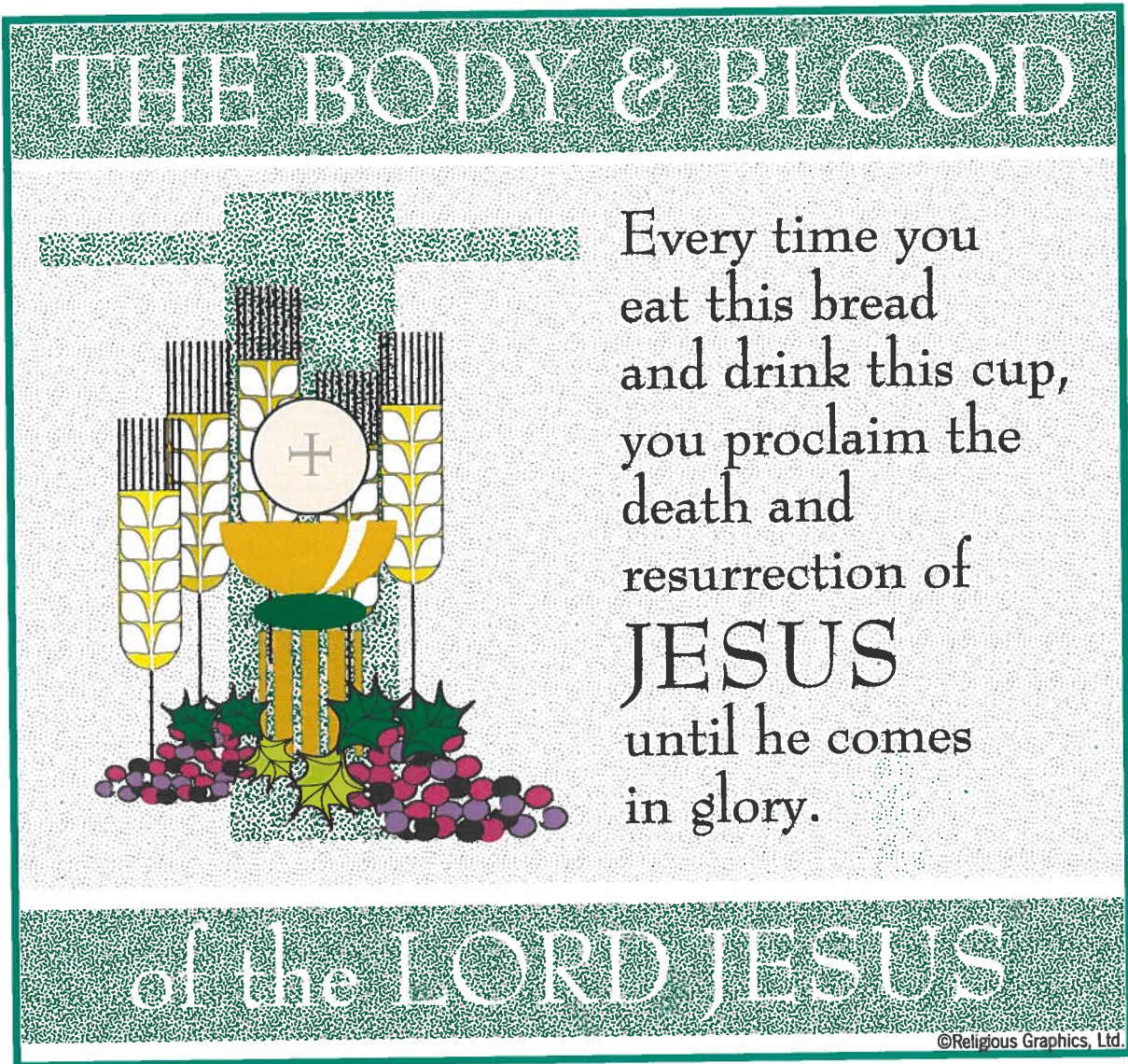


The Roman Catholic Parishes of
St. Margaret Mary, Herscher
St. James the Apostle, Irwin
Sacred Heart, Goodrich

THE MOST HOLY BODY AND BLOOD OF CHRIST

JUNE 21-22, 2025



Weekend Masses:

St. Margaret Mary	Sat. 5:00 pm	Sun. 10:30 am
Sacred Heart	Sun. 7:30 am	
St. James	Sun. 9:00 am	

Confessions:

St. Margaret Mary	Sat. 4:15 pm
Sacred Heart	Sun. 7:05-7:20 am
St. James	Sun. 8:35-8:50 am

Church Mailing Address:

207 E. 5th Street

Herscher, IL 60941

Phone: 815-426-2550

Quotable: "A generous spirit is itself great wealth."

—Saint Leo the Great

Solemnity of Saints Peter and Paul, Apostles

June 28-29, 2025

Liturgical Schedule	St. Margaret Mary Saturday, June 28 5:00 pm	Sacred Heart Sunday, June 29 7:30 am	St. James Sunday, June 29 9:00 am	St. Margaret Mary Sunday, June 29 10:30 am
Celebrant	Fr. Ron Deacon Ron	Fr. Ron Deacon Ron	Fr. Ron Deacon Ron	Fr. Ron Deacon Ron
Ushers	Bob Schultz Todd Datweiler Dan Hoffman Roger Jensen	James Mallaney David Kirkpatrick	Cathy Jensen Jerry Ogrentz Dallas Ferris Jeff Steinke	Kim Smicker Galen Fritz Erik Wheeler Corinn Wheeler
Lector	Dave Emling	Terri Weakley	Jeff O'Connor	Corinn Wheeler
Eucharistic Minister				
Servers				
Greeters			Greeter—Christine Forsythe R. Leader—Reatta Gohlke	Stacie Powers

Mass Intentions for the Week

Monday, June 23 (SMM)

8:00 am +Avinal "Babe" Clodi

Tuesday, June 24 (SH)

8:00 am +Jim Anderson (Jackie Cross)

Wednesday, June 25 (SJ)

8:00 am (SJ) No Mass

Friday, June 27 (SMM)

9:00 am No Mass

Saturday, June 28 (SMM)

5:00 pm +Leo Giacometti (Jackie Eberle)

Sunday, June 29

7:30 am (SH) +Jerry Whalen (Diane Whalen)

+Carson Cross (Nick/Renee Brouillet)

9:00am (SJ) +Juanita Papineau (Gary/Carla Papineau)

10:30 am (SMM) For All the Parish Family

A Look Ahead

Monday, June 23—K of C meeting

June 28/29—2nd Collection for Peter's Pence (see letter from the Bishop on pg.5)

Friday, July 4—9:00 am Mass at SMM (no First Friday devotion because of Federal holiday)

Pastor— Fr. Ron Neitzke- 815-426-2550

Deacon – Ron Gagnon— rjgckg@aol.com

Home—815-933-4077

Parish Email – smm_sja_sh@yahoo.com

TriParish web page – www.triparishcatholics.org

Like us on Facebook triparishcatholic communities

Tri Parish Church office –Barb Riker 426-2550

Julie Bisailon 426-2550

Bulletin – Debbie Jensen - 426-2550

debjen04@gmail.com

Religious Education –

St. MM – Jill Fulton jfulton.stmm@gmail.com

Sacred Heart – Rhonda Berns – 426-5015

St. James— Tanhya Osenga tosenga81@gmail.com

Parish Nurse – Jackie Eberle – 815-421-4048

Prayer Line—

SMM -Janice 815-426-2574 jdstreefarm@aol.com

St. James— Mary Offerman—602-670-8888 (call or text)

Sacred Heart-Marilyn Pfeiffer 815-955-8246 (call or text)

Terri Weakley— 815-514-8171

Question of the Week

During the week ahead, how will I offer myself in imitation of Jesus to nourish or sustain someone else?

Collections Weekend of June 14-15, 2025

St. Margaret Mary—\$1,882 Infirm/Retired- \$487
 Sacred Heart—\$858 Infirm/Retired- \$600
 St. James—\$1,712 Infirm/Retired- \$765
 Thank you for your generosity!

Collections Father Allam's Mission

St. Margaret Mary—\$1,719
 Sacred Heart—\$4,044
 St. James—\$2,653
 Thank you for your generosity!

A Stewardship Moment

The Solemnity of the Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ Weekend of June 21/22, 2025

From the rich Eucharistic themes to be drawn from today's second reading, one stewardship theme stands out: The Eucharist is Christ's gift to us. Good stewards are grateful for this gift and realize that no matter their station in life, they are welcome to come to the table and receive the body and blood of Christ. If Jesus could break bread with his betrayer, Judas, his denier, Peter, and the other ten who deserted him, then he will welcome us. Do we truly appreciate what a tremendous gift it is to approach the Lord's table? Do we realize that the Holy Spirit means to transform us by the gift of Christ's body and blood?

SOLEMNITY OF THE MOST HOLY BODY AND BLOOD OF CHRIST

"FOR MY FLESH IS TRUE FOOD AND
 MY BLOOD IS TRUE DRINK"
 - JN 6:55



Parish News:

All Parishes—

- ⇒ Tri-Parish Office Hours— Our office hours are Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, and Friday 9am—12 pm.
- ⇒ The next Knights of Columbus meeting will be June 23, 2025 .

St. Margaret Mary-

St. James-

Sacred Heart-

your *faith* should not stand in the *wisdom* of men,
 but in the **POWER** of *God*
 1 Corinthians 2:5

Gospel Shorts The Martha Stewart Dinner Party

Martha Stewart has become the model of how to throw a perfect dinner party. Her seeming perfection inspires us but intimidates others. The impromptu dinner party that Jesus threw for the five thousand shows Jesus as the perfect host, and the apostles as good guests who cared for others. Luke describes this miracle in Eucharistic terms, and Paul reminds the Corinthian community at their Eucharist is a meal handed down to them from Jesus.

Our Eucharist is a perfect dinner party, where the host puts himself out completely, even to his Body and Blood. The imperfections that we experience in our celebrations cannot obscure the perfection of the meal itself. Rather, they call us to reflect upon how we ourselves can experience this perfect dinner party more perfectly.



Current Status for 2025 CMAA

Parish	Goal	Pledged	Paid
Sacred Heart	\$6,600	\$7,450	\$5,300
St. James	\$9,700	\$6,770	\$6,555
St. MM	\$8,900	\$7,400	\$6,825

Reflection There's Nothing Like Self-Confidence

When Ty Cobb was seventy, a reporter asked him, "What do you think you'd hit if you were playing these days?"

Cobb, who was a lifetime .367 hitter, said, "About .290, maybe .300."

The reporter said, "That's because of the travel, the night games, the artificial turf, and all the new pitches like the slider, right?"

"No," said Cobb, "it's because I'm seventy."

Obscure saint of the week: St. John Fisher (June 22) studied theology at Cambridge University, receiving degrees in 1487 and 1491. John was a parish priest in Northallerton, England from 1491 to 1494. He gained a reputation for his teaching abilities. John served as the proctor of Cambridge University and was the confessor to Margaret Beaufort, mother of King Henry VII, in 1497. John was made the bishop of Rochester, England in 1504; he worked to raise the standard of preaching in his see. Later he served as the chancellor of Cambridge and tutor of the young King Henry VIII. He was known as an excellent speaker and writer. When in 1527 he was asked to study the problem of Henry's marriage. He became the target of Henry's wrath when John defended the validity of the marriage and rejected Henry's claim to be head of the Church in England. John was imprisoned in 1534 for his opposition; he spent 14 months in prison without trial. While in prison he was created cardinal in 1535 by Pope Paul III.



Other obscure saint of the week: St. Alban of Britain (June 22) was a soldier in the imperial Roman army of Diocletian. He became a convert, brought to the faith by Saint Amphibalus of Verulam whom he had sheltered. Alban was the first martyr in Britain, dying in the persecutions of Diocletian.

The Sunday Gospel in Everyday English

Jesus graciously welcomed them and talked to them about the kingdom of God. Those who needed healing, he healed.

As the day declined, the Twelve said, "Dismiss the crowd so they can go to the farms or villages around here and get a room for the night and a bite to eat. We're out in the middle of nowhere."

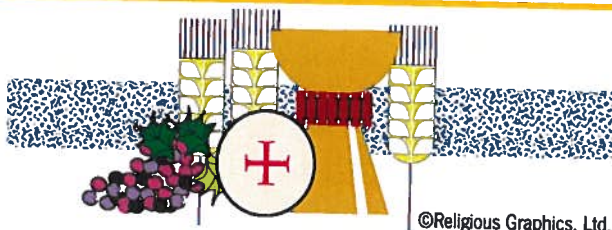
"You feed them," Jesus said.

They said, "We couldn't scrape up more than five loaves of bread and a couple of fish—unless, of course, you want us to go to town ourselves and buy food for everybody." (There were more than 5,000 people in the crowd.)

But he went ahead and directed his disciples, "Sit them down in groups of about 50." They did what he said and soon had everyone seated. He took the five loaves and two fish, lifted his face to heaven in prayer, blessed, broke, and gave the bread and fish to the disciples to hand out to the crowd. After the people had all eaten their fill, 12 baskets of leftovers were gathered up (*from Luke 9*).

Dear God, in a world torn by strife and discord, we humbly seek the grace of peace. May our hearts be filled with compassion, understanding, and love, transcending borders and differences. Let our shared desire for harmony resonate, bridging divides and fostering unity among nations.

prayerslife.com



Catholic Snacks, Get Fed

Who first called the Church "Catholic"?

The term dates all the way back to 107 A.D.

If you've ever wondered where the word *Catholic* came from, you're not alone. Many Christians today use the term, but few know its origins—or how early it was used to describe Christ's one, true Church.

The first recorded use of *Catholic* to describe the Church comes from **St. Ignatius of Antioch**, a bishop, martyr, and disciple of the Apostle John. Around the year **107 A.D.**, while being transported to Rome for execution, St. Ignatius wrote several letters to Christian communities. In his letter to the Smyrnaeans, he wrote:

"Wherever the bishop appears, there let the people be; as wherever Jesus Christ is, there is the **Catholic Church**."

This was just a few decades after the death of the last Apostle. The early Christians didn't invent new denominations or start separate churches—they were part of one, visible, united Church, led by bishops and rooted in the teachings of the Apostles.

The word *catholic* itself comes from the Greek *katholikos*, meaning "universal" or "according to the whole." From the beginning, this Church wasn't local or tribal—it was for everyone, everywhere, offering the fullness of truth handed down by Christ Himself.

St. Ignatius' use of the word shows us something powerful: from the earliest days, the Church understood itself as *one, holy, catholic, and apostolic*. That's not just a line in the Creed—it's a historical reality.

So the next time you say you're Catholic, remember: you're part of a Church that's been called by that name since the first century—a Church founded by Christ, spread by the Apostles, and still proclaiming the truth to the whole world.

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Diocese of Joliet
Office of the Bishop



Blanchette Catholic Center
16555 Weber Road
Crest Hill, Illinois 60403
Phone 815-221-6100
www.dioceseofjoliet.org

"I would like this greeting of peace to resound in your hearts, in your families, among all people, wherever they may be, in every nation and throughout the world. Peace be with you!" - Pope Leo XIV, "Urbi Et Orbi" Message, May 8, 2025.

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Throughout centuries of history, Catholics have supported the Church's mission of evangelization and charity by giving to the annual Peter's Pence Collection. This collection, which began as a way for Catholics around the world to express their unity with the Pope, continues to the present day.

This tangible expression of unity with Pope Leo XIV has a dual purpose set by the Holy See. **(1) To support the Holy Father's mission**, which extends throughout the entire world, from the proclamation of the Gospel to the promotion of integral human development, education peace, and brotherhood among peoples; thanks also to the many activities of service carried out by the dicasteries, bodies and organs of the Holy See that assist him every day; and **(2) To support the numerous charitable works** in aid of people and families in difficulty, populations afflicted by natural disasters and wars, or who are in need of humanitarian assistance or support for development."

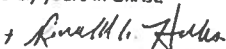
For more information on Peter's Pence, please visit the Vatican's Peter's Pence website: www.obolodsanpietro.va/en.html (English) or www.obolodsanpietro.va/es.html (español).

Please prayerfully consider supporting this year's collection as an act of mercy and charity on the weekend of June 28-29, 2025 in the Diocese of Joliet. Join our brothers and sisters in faith from around the globe to help Pope Leo XIV carry out his ministry to the Universal Church and reach out to the most marginalized in our world.

Thank you and may God bless you abundantly.

As I remain -

Sincerely yours in Christ,


Most Reverend Ronald A. Hicks
Bishop of Joliet

To the parents of young children:

- Relax! God put the wiggle in children. Don't feel like you have to suppress it in God's house.
- Sit towards the front where it's easier for your little ones to see and hear what's going on. They tire of seeing the backs of heads.
- Quietly explain the parts of the service.
- Sing, pray, and voice responses. Children learn by copying your involvement!
- If you have to leave the mass with your child, feel free to do so, but come back! As Jesus said, "let the little children come to me."
- Remember that the way we welcome children in church directly affects the way they respond to the Church, to God, and to one another. Let them know that they are at home here.

To the members of our parish:

The presence of children is a gift to the Church and a reminder that our congregation is growing. Please welcome our children and give a smile of encouragement to their parents! Let's encourage parents in their sincere efforts to bring children to Christ!

~Anonymous

SAVE THE DATE

The Celebration of the conclusion of the National Eucharistic Revival will take place at the Cathedral of St. Raymond Nonnatus in Joliet on Sunday July 13 beginning with the 10:30 am Mass.

After the Mass Bishop Hicks will lead a Eucharistic Procession around the Cathedral grounds ending in the Cathedral with Benediction.



Mark your calendar and make plans to attend this Mass and Eucharistic Procession.



ALL ARE WELCOME!
Click button below or scan QR code to register

REGISTER HERE



¡TODOS SON BIENVENIDOS!
Haga clic en el botón de abajo o escanee el código QR para registrarse

REGISTRATE AQUÍ

You are cordially invited to the Diocese of Joliet

Jubilee Mass for Persons with disABILITIES
June 1, 2025
12:30 p.m.

Cathedral of St. Raymond
604 N. Raynor Ave.
Joliet, Illinois

The Mass will be celebrated by Bishop Ronald Hicks, refreshments and fellowship to follow. Those with disABILITIES, and their caregivers, will receive a special blessing.

Department of
Catechesis and
Evangelization
Departamento de
Catequesis y

Están cordialmente invitados a la Diócesis de Joliet

Misa Jubilar para Las Personas con disCAPACIDADES
1 de junio de 2025
12:30 p.m.

Catedral de San Raimundo
604 N. Raynor Ave.
Joliet, Illinois

La misa será celebrada por el obispo Ronald Hicks, refresco y compartirse a seguir. Aquellos con disCAPACIDADES y sus cuidadores, recibirán una bendición especial.

Questions? ¿Preguntas?
Martha Torres
(815) 221-6128

DIocese of Joliet



Questions Catholics Ask

I thought scrupulosity was a good thing. My confessor tells me it's not.



As an adjective, being scrupulous describes a person who's extremely attentive to details. Those who are scrupulous get the job done diligently and meticulously. When it comes to moral matters, the scrupulous are known for high-minded principles. If you hire a scrupulous employee, s/he can be trusted not to cut corners, cook the books, or take inkjet cartridges home from the office.

Pathological scrupulosity, however, manifests as a form of anxiety disorder. Then scrupulosity becomes a morbid fear of being in a sinful state. This condition isn't about having a sensitive conscience: it would be terrific if more people did. The scrupulous person begins to manufacture occasions of sin, seeing the mirage of wrongdoing even where there isn't any. The scrupulous start to worry that they're about to sin; or have sinned without knowing it.

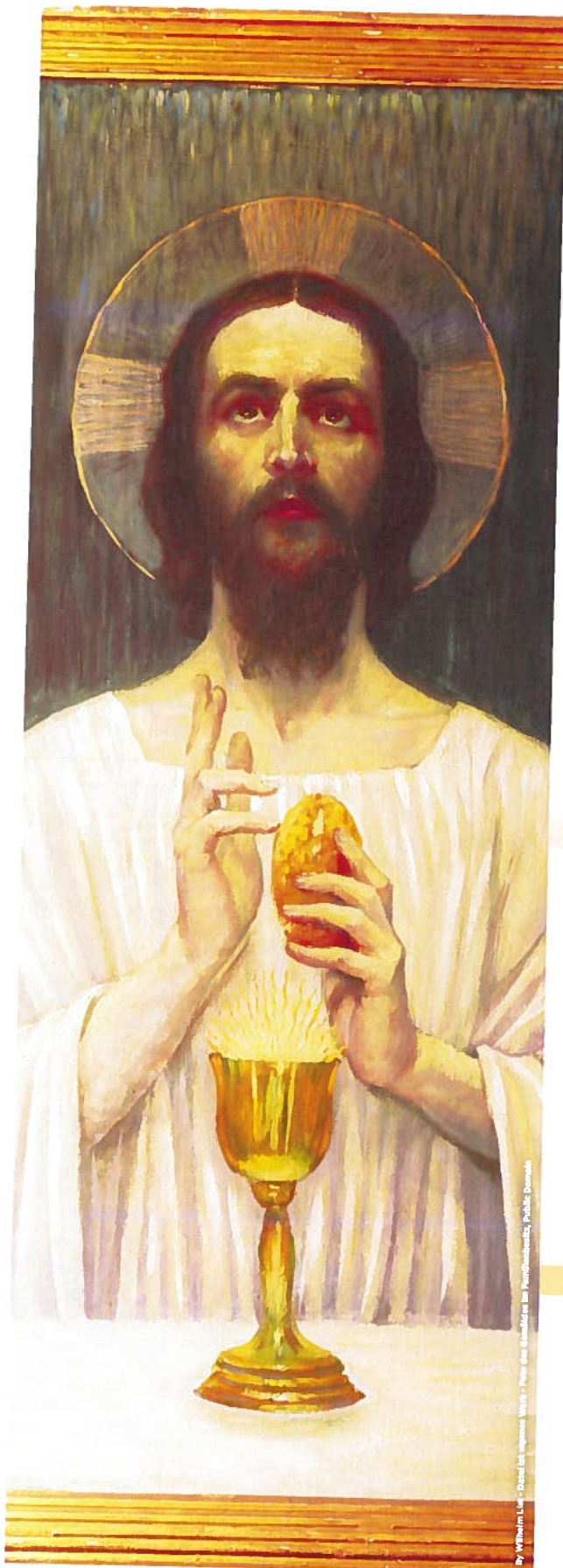
"Don't be a 'scrupe,'" a confessor cautioned me when I was a somewhat pious teenager, already convinced that going to confession repetitively was a ladder to greater holiness. This priest was warning me that the road to spiritual scrupulosity often leads, not to the echelons of sanctity of medieval saints I secretly hoped to reach, but to an inability to judge the morality of any action with clarity. When the goal becomes rooting out every speck of potential personal sinfulness, the genuine ideal—of seeking the way of holy living—is obscured. Self-absorption is always a sign that the focus needs to be restored to God, and not to one's own state of purity. In my case, the early warning got

me off a road that could have led to great suffering.

Those who suffer from the mental illness of scrupulosity express anxiety about not going to confession often enough, not confessing adequately, or not performing their penance with sufficient contrition. They confess the same sins over and over or repeat their penances trying to perfect their remorse. Even so, the scrupulous lose faith in the ability of absolution to do its work. They may come to believe they can't be forgiven because the evil in them is too great. This, ironically, IS a matter of sin: to doubt the efficacy of divine forgiveness. It's like saying that Jesus died on the cross in vain when it comes to you, since you personally are too bad to be saved. Those afflicted with scrupulosity should seek professional counseling, in addition to qualified spiritual direction.

Scripture: Joshua 1:9; 2 Chronicles 20:20; Psalms 9:10-11; 46:11; 56:3-5; 103:8-10; Proverbs 3:5; Isaiah 43:25; Matthew 21:22; Luke 1:37; 24:32; John 8:12; Ephesians 3:11-12; Philippians 4:13; Hebrews 13:8; Revelation 3:20-21

Website: <https://scrupulousanonymous.org>



June 22, 2025

The Solemnity of the Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ

Written by
THE
FAITHFUL
DISCIPLE

Gen 14:18-20 | 1 Cor 11:23-26 | Lk 9:11b-17

GROW AS A DISCIPLE | PRAY, STUDY, ENGAGE, SERVE

Today's feast is set apart to reverence the gift of Jesus in the Eucharist. In our limited human capacity, this concept can feel abstract, and we may struggle to understand it. In these moments, I find that pondering the person of Jesus Christ in the Gospels illuminates my mind and heart. Hearing the familiar story of the multiplication of the loaves and fishes in today's Gospel, I'm particularly struck by the first line of the passage: "Jesus spoke to the crowds about the kingdom of God, and he healed those who needed to be cured." Notice that Luke doesn't say that Jesus heals *everyone*, rather, he heals those who *need* to be cured. This is not an act of favoritism, but a revelation of his perfect divine wisdom and a glimpse into the true person of Jesus Christ. In his great mercy and perfect love, Jesus knew instantly what each person needed. And this Jesus, who came to heal and cure, is the one we receive in the Eucharist today.

GO EVANGELIZE

PRAYER, INVITATION, WITNESS, ACCOMPANIMENT

Today's feast is a reminder of the staggering truth that 2,000 years later, at every Eucharistic celebration in Catholic churches around the world, Christ becomes truly present. The same Jesus of the Gospels who taught the crowds, multiplied the loaves, and gave himself completely on the cross, gives himself to us *today*: body, blood, soul, and divinity. We are not unlike the crowds in today's Gospel — we have come with our hopes and needs to encounter Jesus. Today, at this table, no one goes hungry; Jesus meets our needs by giving us his unconditional love while nourishing us both physically and spiritually. We can be reassured that God is always present in our lives.

REFLECT

In a special way today, reflect on the Eucharist, the "source and summit of the Christian life." The word Eucharist comes from Greek and Latin words for "thanksgiving." Pray with a grateful heart today that Jesus, the Bread of Life, makes himself truly present to us.

"I am the bread of life; whoever comes to me shall not hunger, and whoever believes in me shall never thirst." (Jn 6:35)

SPIRITUALITY

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

John 6:51

R. Alleluia, alleluia.

I am the living bread that came down from heaven,
says the Lord; / whoever eats this bread will live
forever.

R. Alleluia, alleluia.

Gospel

Luke 9:11b-17; L169C

Jesus spoke to the crowds about
the kingdom of God,
and he healed those who needed
to be cured.

As the day was drawing to a close,
the Twelve approached him and
said,
"Dismiss the crowd
so that they can go to the sur-
rounding villages and farms
and find lodging and provisions;
for we are in a deserted place
here."

He said to them, "Give them some
food yourselves."

They replied, "Five loaves and two fish
are all we have,
unless we ourselves go and buy food
for all these people."

Now the men there numbered about
five thousand.

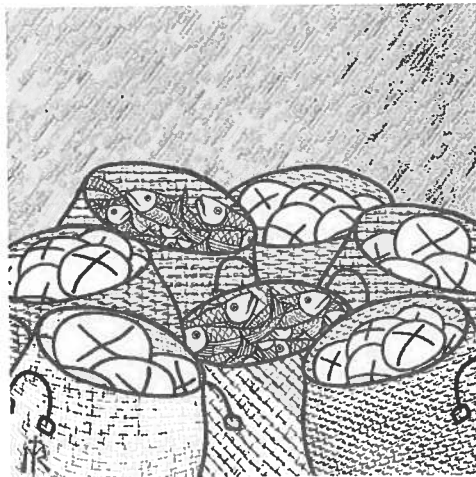
Then he said to his disciples,
"Have them sit down in groups of
about fifty."

They did so and made them all sit down.
Then taking the five loaves and the two
fish,
and looking up to heaven,
he said the blessing over them, broke
them,
and gave them to the disciples to set
before the crowd.

They all ate and were satisfied.
And when the leftover fragments were
picked up,
they filled twelve wicker baskets.

Reflecting on the Gospel

This time of year is the "wedding season," as young lovers often choose late spring or early summer to celebrate sacramentally their commitment to each other. In an act of profound self-gift, they entrust themselves, body, mind, and heart, to one another in loving union. There is another way in which bodies are given for others: each mother carries her child within her womb for nine months, sharing her own body and blood for the nourishment of the new life within.



Within the body of believers, church members also give of themselves, body, mind, and spirit, for one another and for the life of the world. In each of the ways in which the whole self is given in love, Jesus's act of self-gift lives on.

In the world of Jesus, the expression "body and blood" was a way of speaking of the whole person. Today we speak of "body, mind, and spirit" when referring to the whole self. This feast day celebrates the gift of Christ, who entrusted his entire self to us, in his life and ministry but especially in his self-surrender in death. In the ancient formula handed on to Paul and then to us, which we repeat at Eucharist, we are invited to receive the

body and blood of Christ that is for us and to "do this in remembrance" of him. "Do this" means not only to recall his words and actions at Eucharist but also to emulate his whole manner of life. Moreover, "remembrance" is not simply to call to mind but to make present again Christ's entrusting of himself to us in love.

In the gospel, we see how easy it is to miss the moment when such self-gift is asked of us. The Twelve and the crowd have been with Jesus all day as he has poured out himself in teaching about God's realm and has restored the bodies of those who needed healing. With the day drawing to a close, the people's physical needs now come to the fore. The Twelve suggest to Jesus that he send the crowd into the surrounding villages and farms to find lodging and provisions. Such a move would, indeed, give the hosts in the villages the opportunity to give of themselves in eucharistic hospitality.

Instead, Jesus directs the Twelve to their own resources. He takes the five loaves and two fish, looks up to heaven, blesses, breaks, and gives them to the disciples to set before the crowd. There is plenty for all and then some. The miracle is a summons to the giving of our whole selves, body, mind, and spirit, to the One who is the Source of all nourishment so that we may be broken open in love for the life of the world.

Such self-giving is not possible on our own. It is in the gathered assembly of believers, where we remember Christ's act in sacramental ritual, that we gain strength and give courage to one another to entrust ourselves to this kind of love.