

## **CORPUS CHRISTI B - 2021**

"How shall I make a return to the Lord for all the good he has done for me? The cup of salvation I will take up, and I will call upon the name of the Lord."

These words, taken from today's responsorial psalm, remind us that the meaning of the word "Eucharist" is "to give thanks."

The Eucharist is the ultimate expression of thanksgiving that we can offer here on earth to God for the salvation we have received through the Death and Resurrection of Christ.

Through the Eucharist we become participants in the eternal offering of Jesus our High Priest described in the Letter to the Hebrews.

And in the Eucharist, the new Covenant established by Christ is confirmed, not by our being sprinkled with the blood of animals, but by our consuming the Body and Blood of the true Lamb of God.

As Jesus sends the two disciples to prepare the Upper Room for the celebration of the Passover meal, so he wants us to prepare well for our weekly (or even daily) commemoration of his Last Supper.

It is Jesus himself who invites us to participate in this Eucharistic feast.

What a great privilege we have been given!

## 2

I believe that our time in lock-down due to the outbreak of the Covid epidemic, when we could not come to the celebration of the Mass or receive Holy Communion ...

... created a deep hunger and a new appreciation for the nourishment given to us by Jesus in his Body and Blood.

And when it was possible to come back to church, it was so heartening to see how many returned, eager to partake of the Bread of Life.

Now we come to a new stage when, on June 11th, the dispensation from the obligation to attend Mass will cease.

We certainly hope and pray that every member of our parish family who is able to, will gather once more with us around the table of the Lord.

Also, as of June 11, the Diocese of Gary will discontinue the requirement of wearing masks at our liturgies.

However, masks continue to be strongly recommended for those who have not been fully vaccinated.

We will also be removing the tape from most of the pews now that the social distancing metric has been decreased from six to three feet.

In order to accommodate those who are unvaccinated, as well as anyone who feels more comfortable with the six feet social distancing, we will continue to have two sections of pews with every other pew taped off.

### 3

Please be respectful of whatever choices people may make regarding their safety needs.

If anyone has concerns about these new arrangements please feel free to talk to me.

Dear Friends, the Eucharist is called the Sacrament of Charity because through it Jesus gives himself totally to us.

When we receive Holy Communion, Jesus transforms us into living sacraments of his presence and love here on earth ...

... and, as the Letter to the Hebrews declares, we are promised an eternal inheritance.

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