



June 11th, 2023 Body and Blood of Christ

Pastor: Fr. Henry Smolenaars
Fr. Henry Email: frhenrys@gmail.com
Hospital Chaplain: Fr. Wieslaw Papuga
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Office hours: Monday to Friday
 from 9:30 am to 1:00 pm
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Tabitha Centre: 902-742-8960
Reconciliation/confession is held on Wednesday
 after mass from 7:00-8:00

MASS INTENTIONS –June 10th- 18th 2023

St. Ambrose Co-Cathedral (Yarmouth):

Sat. 4 pm Richard M. Doucette
Sun. 9am Parishioners
Sun. 11:15 am John, Sandy & Mary MacIsaac
Tues. 6:30 pm Anniv. Tingy Jackson
Wed. 6:30 pm Siffroi & Estelle LeBlanc & family
Thurs: 9 am Frances Surette
Fri. 9 am Eli & Celena Hubbard & family
Sat. 4 pm George Bain
Sun. 9 am Anniv. Agnes Salvage
Sun. 11:15 am Parishioners

Our Lady of Lourdes (Melbourne):

Sat. 10 am June 11 Adam Surette
Sun. 10 am June 18 Rebecca LeBlanc

REFLECTION: *The gift of all gifts* Standing at the crowded table in the dim candle light of the Upper Room during the Last Supper, Jesus Christ did not hand out Bibles to the Twelve Apostles and



solemnly tell them, "Take this, all of you, and read it. This is my book, written for you." Jesus gives us Himself, not a book. On today's Feast, we commemorate God's greatest gift to mankind, the person of Jesus Christ. God gives us His Son, and

then Christ gives us Himself, body and blood, soul and divinity, under the accidents of bread and wine in the Holy Eucharist. Gift, gift-giver, and receiver meld into one in this sacrament of sacraments.

In the era of the early Church, it was customary for an excess of bread to be consecrated at Mass so that the Eucharist could be carried to the sick who had been unable to attend the Holy Sacrifice. This practice led to the adoption of the pyx as the first sacred vessel for reservation of the Eucharist. Some modern churches pay homage to these Eucharistic origins by hanging an oversized pyx on their wall to use as a tabernacle, imitating the early Church custom. Permanent reservation of the Eucharist led, over the centuries, to enthroning the Lord amidst the greatest splendor in churches. By the early medieval period, the time had long passed when the Eucharist was reserved merely to be brought to the sick. Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, street processions, chants, confraternities, songs, flowers, and all the splendid trappings of a feast day covered this dogma in glory by the High Middle Ages, and continue to wrap it in honor today.

Saint Thomas Aquinas taught that the most necessary sacrament was Baptism but that the most excellent was the Holy Eucharist. This most excellent sacrament has been, for some, too excellent. In the Gospel of John, when Jesus tells His disciples that they must eat His body and drink His blood, many are incredulous and walk away. But Jesus does not compromise or say He was misunderstood. He lets them keep on walking. This initially hard teaching for the few was destined, over time, to be lovingly welcomed by the many.

The Old Covenant of the Old Testament was gory. In a kind of primitive liturgy, Moses had goats and sheep slaughtered on an altar and their blood gathered into buckets. He then splashed this blood over the people, sealing their acceptance of the written law. Flying droplets of animal blood splattered against people's skin to remind them of their promise to God. No such bloody drama breaks out at Sunday Mass. We each bless our head and torso with holy water and receive a pure white host on the tongue. The New Covenant is based not on the blood of goats, bull calves, or on the ashes of a heifer. It is rooted in the generosity of the Son of God, who "offered himself as the perfect sacrifice

to God through the eternal Spirit." Christ's Covenant with his people is established verbally and liturgically at the Last Supper and physically on the cross the following day. The consecration of the Sacred Species at Mass continues Christ's physical presence among us, while adoration of the Blessed Sacrament suspends the consecration of the Mass, stretching it out into hours, days, months, and years.

We naturally desire to leave a part of ourselves to our loved ones. We send photos, solemnly pass on a cherished memento, or give a baby a family name. Soldiers used to carry a locket holding a few strands of their wife's or girlfriend's hair. We need to be close, physically close, to those we love in concrete, tangible ways. Jesus desired the same, and, not being constrained by the limitations of human nature, He did the same, and more. He *has* left us Himself! That dogma processing down the street is a person! And that dogma behind the golden doors of the parish's tabernacle is the same person! So, bend that body low and set that heart on fire, for the Saving Victim opens wide the gate of heaven to all below. We stand as close to Christ in the Holy Eucharist as the Apostles ever did on Mount Tabor. *Lord of the Eucharist, we venerate You with heads bowed, as the old form of worship gives way to the new. With faith providing for what fails the senses, we honor the Begetter and the Begotten, loving back at what loved us first, apprentices in the school of love.*

-My Catholic Life

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS NEWS: Monthly Meeting:



Tuesday June 13th, all members invited
 5:30pm executive meeting, 6:30pm
 supper, 7:30pm general meeting

4th Degree meeting: Tuesday June 20th at 7pm. All members invited.

ONGOING WORK AT ST. AMBROSE: The last few years, we have had to do some work to keep the church and Parish Center in good shape. Did you know that over the past few years we have received 3 grants of \$25,000 each. With this money we replaced the furnaces in the Parish Center and renovated the men's and women's restrooms in the lower level. During the winter, in St. Ambrose church, we fixed the window that was being pushed in and are currently working on the entrance to the

Jubilee Room/Church. Some projects planned for this year: replacing the wooden side steps to the church on the Green Street side which are getting in bad shape and the drainage in front of the Adoration Chapel. Also, we are looking at fixing the leak by sacristy and replacing the few remaining old windows in the basement. There are always things to do when you have an older building. Fr. Henry

QUOTE OF THE WEEK: The devil is afraid of us when



we pray and make sacrifices. He is afraid when we are humble and good. He is especially afraid when we love Jesus very much. -St. Anthony of Padua

THANK YOU: With much appreciation we would like thank everyone who donated to the Catholic Summer Camp. We truly have a very generous Parish.

FRIENDS OF MARY: A gathering of the Friends of Mary will take place on June 22nd, at 7pm in the Jubilee Room. All parishioners are welcome.

CATHOLIC SUMMER CAMP: August 13th - 18th at



Johnston Christian Park, South Range, Digby County. \$200.00 early bird fee if registered by June 30th. After this registration will be \$225.00. It's for youth ages 10 to 14 and you can get a registration form at the Parish office or on the website.

LOOKING FOR A MUSICIAN: Do you have musical



skills like playing the piano or guitar that you can share with the Parish? We are looking for someone who can play a musical instrument to join the 9:00am choir. If you are able to help, please talk with Pat Gascoigne or myself (Fr. Henry). Please be generous in giving of your talents to your parish.

TAIZE SERVICE: A Taize Service to celebrate the birth of St. John the Baptist Holy Trinity Church Yarmouth, Thursday, June 22nd at 7pm. All are welcome. For more information contact Julie Chandler at 902-774-3340 or jamesdauntchandler@gmail.com