



THE SOLEMNITY OF THE MOST HOLY BODY AND BLOOD OF CHRIST THE FEAST OF CORPUS CHRISTI

This weekend we celebrate the Feast of Corpus Christi - Latin for “the Body of Christ”.

It is the celebration of Christ’s Presence in the Eucharist.

Take time to focus on and contemplate your own relationship with Christ.

As Catholic faithful we know that during the Eucharist the bread and wine truly become the Body and Blood of Our Lord Jesus Christ. It is the heart of our faith. It brings us back to our great love of our Lord and Savior.

Let us renew our spirit this Solemnity of the Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ and not take our Eucharist for granted or let it be so routine that we lose our focus. Make a commitment to yourself to honor Christ more, love more, and spend more time with Him in the Eucharist.

The solemnity of Corpus Christi is a time to reaffirm our faith in Christ’s Real Presence in the Eucharist. Don’t limit it to Mass. Go to Adoration. Be a part of planning Eucharistic Processions to proclaim visually our devotion to the Body of Christ.

St. John gives us the Bread of Life Discourse in John 6:22-71. Reread it in a quiet space to deepen our understanding as Bishop Brennan describes it as “the intense love that moves the Son of God to give himself to us as food for our journey of faith.”

The Gospel this Sunday includes verses 51-58 – the reality of the Eucharist – the Flesh and Blood of the Son of Man.





NATIONAL Eucharistic Revival

PARISH YEAR

Now It's Your Moment! PARISH YEAR OF THE EUCHARISTIC REVIVAL

Now it's your moment! Let your Parish Year of Eucharistic Revival be as author J.R.R. Tolkien said, "the cure for fainting faith."

As our local parishes celebrate Corpus Christi Sunday with Mass, Eucharistic Processions, and Adoration this weekend, we begin the National Eucharistic Revival's Parish Year through July 17, 2024. Each parish in the diocese, like all throughout the nation, will plan special Masses, catechism for all ages, Eucharistic Adoration, speakers, events, and projects all celebrating the Body, Blood, Soul, and Divinity of Christ.

Our priests have or will be selecting a leader(s) for this concentration to make up a Revival Team to brainstorm creative, effective, and practical initiatives tailored to your parish family. Resources are available at (www.EUCHARISTICREVIVAL.ORG/LEAD) and will be posted on DWC.ORG click on the National Eucharistic Revival banner.

Energized by our three diocesan Eucharistic Congresses, more than 600 faithful have celebrated that the Eucharist is nothing less than Jesus Christ in Person!

We genuflect. We kneel. We bow our heads, because we have so much devotion to our Risen Lord, who suffered and died for our sins.

The closest we get to heaven on this earth is through the Eucharist.

Be present with Him at Mass and Adoration.

The mission of the parish year is to make it perfectly clear that the bread and wine at Mass are not symbolic they transform into the Body and Blood of Christ nothing less.

There are four key invitations for the parish family to focus on:

- Reinvigorating Worship – elevating minds and hearts
- Personal Encounter – opportunities to personally encounter Christ in the Eucharist
- Robust Faith Formation – large or small group "Jesus and the Eucharist"
- Missionary Sending – invite people back, help those in need, and embrace being the Body of Christ.

The United State Conference of Catholic Bishops and our offices at the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston are eager to help each parish thrive in this mission to honor Christ's Real Presence and the mission of the Church.

"A genuine belief in the Real Presence of Christ in the Eucharist is essential to our Catholic faith," Bishop Mark Brennan said at the final Diocesan Eucharistic Congress in Charleston. "The Eucharist is the strength we need to serve and to love."

Take time to watch this presentation by the Knights of Columbus, featuring many well-known Catholic speakers, [THE EUCHARIST: SOURCE OF HEALING AND HOPE.](#)



WEST VIRGINIA EUCHARISTIC CONGRESSES

Litany of the Eucharist

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

**Lord, have mercy
Christ, have mercy
Lord, have mercy**

Christ, hear us

**God, the Father in heaven
God, the Son Redeemer of the world
God, the Holy Spirit
Holy Trinity
Mary Queen of Peace
St. Joseph, Terror of Demons
St. Therese of Lisieux
St. Thomas Aquinas
St. Gemma Galgani
Blessed Carlo Acutis
All you saints and angels
Christ, hear us
Lord Jesus, hear our prayer**

*Lord, have mercy
Christ, have mercy
Lord, have mercy*

Christ, graciously hear us

*Have mercy on us
Have mercy on us
Have mercy on us
Have mercy on us
Pray for us.
Christ, graciously hear us
Lord Jesus, hear our prayer.*

AMEN!



WEST VIRGINIA EUCHARISTIC CONGRESSES

Revival Prayer and Reflection

Our revival prayer in the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston calls us to prepare the way for the Lord with deep spirituality and active love. Below is our prayer with a reflection after each section.

**Father in heaven,
you have made us for yourself;**

As St. Thomas Aquinas wrote, "God created us to spread His goodness and love."

He made the world and all that is in it.

He is the author of life and the creator of Heaven.

He has given each one of us assigned talents, passions, and knowledge.

Let us in return serve Him, glorify Him, and praise Him.

our hearts are restless until they rest in you.

Saint Augustine articulated the restlessness we face in life. We seem to be continually searching, worried, anxious, and taking wrong turns in hopes to find fulfillment. But what we are ultimately searching for is You, God! Let us approach YOUR table with the confidence that You are the joy we seek. You are the Bread of Life. WE thirst.

**Fulfill this longing through Jesus, the Bread of Life,
whose sacramental Body
we receive in the Eucharist,
so that we may witness to him
who alone satisfies the hungers of the human family.**

Saint Thérèse of Lisieux described her First Holy Communion as "the most wonderful day" of her life – "Heavenly happiness which words cannot express."

Saint Gemma wrote "Jesus shows all His sweetness in the Blessed Sacrament. Is it even possible that there are souls who do not understand what the Blessed Eucharist is? Who are insensible to the Divine Presence... to the mysterious and fervent effusions of the Sacred Heart of my Jesus? The Eucharist is a school of paradise, where one learns how to love."

Heavenly Father, YOU are the source of all life by your love.

When we feel deep true love, we are granted just a glimpse of the love Christ has for us.

Under the appearances of bread and wine He instituted our Holy Communion and the partaking of the true Body and Blood of Christ. Contemplating His presence is how we discover – His true love!

**By the power of your Spirit
lead us to the heavenly table
where we may feast on the
vision of your glory for ever and ever.**

Jesus Christ's presence in the Eucharist is the real heaven among us.

It is through the Blessed Sacrament He invites us to enter into the life of the Holy Trinity.

Blessed Carlo Acutis left us with these words, "The more Eucharist we receive, the more we will become like Jesus, so that on earth we will have a foretaste of heaven. By standing before the Eucharistic Christ, we become holy."

God, encourage us through the Holy Spirit to fully embrace and share the joy of Jesus Christ, the Bread of Life, with others.

Through the Eucharist let us accept our mission – to be One Body – unified by Your love and mercy, servants who crave the Bread of Life. God's love for eternity.

Amen.

BE HUMBLE AND HUNGRY LIKE SAINT ANTHONY

June 13 is the Feast Day of St. Anthony of Padua, a great day to heed his words, “Actions speak louder than words; let your words teach and actions speak.”

We pray for him to intercede and come to our aid when we lose something. Children call out to him in a sing-song prayer “Tony! Tony! Look around. Something’s lost but must be found,” reciting it over and over.

You’re blessed if you grew up in a household with so much love of Jesus and the saints that the first thing you do when you need help is call upon the saints. Having that childlike trust and faith is priceless.

As adults, we are often searching for much more. While many of our prayers to St. Anthony may still be the sweet faithful rendition of “Tony! Tony!” some are more desperate. We know to call upon him to help us in our needs, but do we know much about him to appreciate why we do?

Saint Anthony’s life, like ours, had its ups and downs – joys and crises. He worked hard at doing “the right thing” only to get knocked down.

He was born in 1195 in Portugal to Martin and Mary Bulhom, who named him Fernando. By the age of 15 he entered the St. Augustine Monastery. He was hungry for a “proper formation” of faith and mastered theology as an Augustinian for the 11 years he was with the order.

One day while at the monastery the bodies of five Franciscans who had been tortured and beheaded in Morocco for preaching Christianity were carried back to Portugal. That horrific sight motivated Fernando to defend the faith and not just be a scholar of it. He realized his longing – his hunger – was to bring souls to God.

He was willing to share his deep love of Christ by preaching even if it meant losing his own life. He convinced the Augustinians to let him leave and the Franciscans to allow him to join their order and evangelize in Morocco for them. The Franciscans gave him the name Anthony.

However, as most all of us can relate, Anthony’s plan was not God’s. Praise God.

He left to be that missionary, but became very ill, and storms forced the ship he was on to go off course, landing in Sicily. The friars there didn’t know his story. They just knew he was frail. They nursed him as best they could, but he remained too lethargic to earn any meaningful

assignment. He went into a life of seclusion and prayer.

No one knew his thoughtful intellect and ability to eloquently evangelize until he was the only one at an ordination celebration of Dominicans and Franciscans who was willing to give a short sermon. Those in attendance were surprised and impressed by his fire, knowledge, and holiness.

Almost immediately he was assigned to preach in northern Italy. Once there he learned that in order to be heard it wasn’t how loud or intelligent he spoke, but how relatable he was. Even more so, how much he was willing to humble himself and not be arrogant and untouchable.

St. Anthony is quoted as saying, “The creator of the heavens obeys a carpenter; the God of eternal glory listens to a poor virgin. Has anyone ever witnessed anything comparable to this? Let the philosopher no longer disdain from listening to the common laborer; the wise, to the simple; the educated, to the illiterate; a child of a prince, to a peasant.”

He had to prove himself genuine, willing to live the gospel not just preach about it. He didn’t set out to prove people wrong, but use his actions and words to share love and positivity.

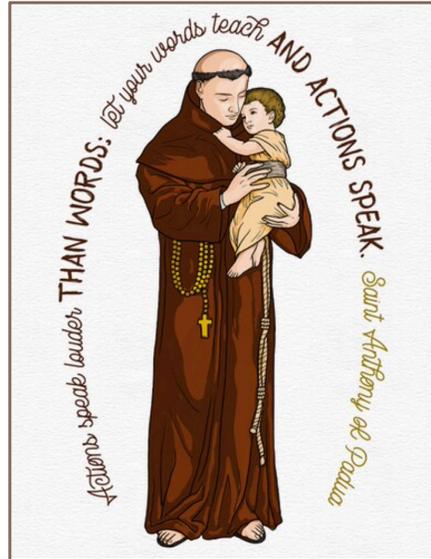
In his early 30s he was sent to serve in Padua, where he preached to crowds large that he’d have to take his sermons outside the walls of the church or in an open field. People would camp out to hear him.

At 36 exhausted and not fully recovered from his early ailments, St. Anthony knew he was dying. Preaching in a town just outside Padua, he received his last anointing. It was during prayer with many friars gathered with him that he said, “I see my Lord!” He died peacefully soon after.

So many miracles were attributed to him during and after his life that he was declared a saint one year after his death by Pope Gregory IX.

To read more about Saint Anthony online we suggest going to St. Anthony Shrine’s website: WWW.STANTHONY.ORG/WHO-ST-ANTHONY/, which highlights his life as written in the book, *Saint Anthony of Padua: The Story of His Life and Popular Devotions* by Leonard Foley and Norman Perry.

Editor’s note: the art with this article is by Bernadette Meyer of WWW.ETSY.COM/SHOP/MEYERMARKETDESIGNS.



BLESSED AGUCHITA ~ MARTYR OF MERCY

She was martyred at 70 in Peru, serving the poor and preaching peace.

Blessed Sister María Agustina “Aguchita” de Jesús Rivas López, was an advocate for women and children who were living in a remote village of Peru, surrounded by political conflict and violent uprisings.



She was a sister of Our Lady of Charity of the Good Shepherd, the same congregation of our Sister Martha Gomez, the Director of Consecrated Life for the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston. Blessed Aguchita's is an elite example of faithfulness and service for the love of Christ even in the face of persecution and distrust “no matter the cost.”

A year before she was killed, she attended a retreat on non-violence. She was proud of the success she was making – women and children learning how to care for and live off the land, also cultivating a great sense of pride, purpose, and love of God. Well aware of her age, she knew that God wasn't quite done with her yet, and that is why she was excited to live out her mission doing what she knew she was called to do on earth.

She wrote to her superior, “As for the spiritual, I am about to make gigantic strides. It seems these will be the last days of my life. The time is flying, and I will have to

use it well; otherwise, I would present myself in eternity with empty hands. The Lord is too delicate. Let me tell you about one day in meditation when I remembered about the great “dream” I had when I discovered my vocation to be a religious sister: it was to work in the jungle. Years have passed, and I say to myself that the Lord has brought me here to give me pleasure in my old age, before I die – in short, I am clay in his hands.”

June 13th is Blessed Aguchita's birthday. Known as Sister Aguchita by her family, friends, and those she loved working in Peru, she did not just serve to comfort and console, but to educate and empower the marginalized especially women and young girls.

On Sept. 27, 1990, she was killed by guerrillas in the center of the village. The attackers despised her presence and any “outsider” in their region simply for doing charitable work, believing it was work was to humiliate the locals of the La Florida territory.

She was beatified last year with a Mass on the same ground, where she and others were shot to death.

Words of Blessed Aguchita to inspire us to love, care, and show mercy for others like Christ, even when we least feel like it:

“To love when we are loved (and) do good when everyone around us treats us the same way is no great charity, it is a pleasant courtesy; but to love and do good when we are slandered, precisely to those who slander us, this is charity.

“(Similarly)To be cheerful and courteous when our heart beats regularly, when health makes everything easy and helps the will to act well is no merit, but an expansion of the excess of strength and joy that we carry within us; (however) to appear kind, smiling, friendly, and attentive to the wishes of others when our body is consumed with sickness, making us unable to think, within in severe pain, this is virtue... worth more than life.”

You can read more in her book, a biography/autobiography: *Aguchita – Mercy and Justice*.

ST. GERMAINE COUSIN CHOSE JOY & LOVE FOR HER STORY

Her story has the outline of a fairytale – an evil stepmother, tormenting siblings, and dingy living quarters. However, St. Germaine Cousin's story is not a tale. It is real, a true heartbreaker on the surface, but her heart was happy, because God graced her with reverent joy.

Saint Germaine was born with a deformed right hand and neck; she was also often sickly. Her mother died when she was only five and her father died soon after he had remarried, while Germaine was still a young child. Her stepmother detested the sight and thought of her.

While Saint Germaine lived a seemingly miserable life, she made God her best friend and knew heaven was her happily ever after.

Despite the fact that Saint Germaine's stepmother made her live in the barn with no humane accommodations, she did not seek pity. She turned to prayer. Saint Germaine made her own rosary, tying knots along rope.

Saint Germaine became a shepherdess tending to sheep in the field every day. She trusted God so much she would leave the flock and walk to daily Mass, knowing the sheep would not stray in God's care. It was even witnessed that the flooded river in her village parted for St. Germaine to cross so she

wouldn't be late for Mass. Because of this and many more miraculous events the townspeople looked upon her as extraordinary in God's sight, which only angered her stepmother even more.

Saint Germaine must have had legions of angels help her keep a positive and merciful mindset. It's recorded that one day when she went off to town to share her bread for the day with the poor her stepmother had followed her. Once she got to the town square, the nasty woman accused the child of stealing food and made her in front of all around open her apron to reveal the bread. However, when she did it wasn't bread that was inside the apron it was beautiful flowers that would not have been in bloom at that time of year. The child handed her stepmother one of the prettiest blooms saying, "Please accept this flower, Mother.

God sends it to you in sign of His forgiveness."

While those in the village showed the girl love and respect, the stepmother continued her horrible treatment.

Saint Germaine died at the age of 22. On the night she died two monks reported seeing the night sky above the barn light up and angles descending.

43 years after her death her body was found incorrupt.

On June 15th, we honor her on her feast day. St. Germaine Cousin, patron of victims of child abuse, pray for all children living in heartbreaking conditions. Surround them with legions of angels and the loving care of God our Father. Amen!

Read her story by [CLICKING HERE](#).

Editor's note: the painting of St. Germaine is how 19th Century French artist William-Adolphe Bougureau interpreted her inner beauty, despite the deformities that her family could not look past.



CORPUS CHRISTI SUNDAY
MOST HOLY BODY AND BLOOD OF CHRIST

First Reading: Deuteronomy 8:2-3, 14b-16a

We live on every word of God who fed the people in the desert manna from Heaven.

Responsorial Psalm: Psalm 147

“Praise the Lord, Jerusalem.”

Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 10:16-17

When we participate in the Eucharist we unite with the Body of Christ.

Gospel: John 6:51-58

Jesus is the living bread come down from Heaven. Unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink his blood, you do not have life within you. Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood has eternal life.

[CLICK HERE FOR FULL SCRIPTURE TEXT
BIBLE.USCCB.ORG/BIBLE/READINGS/060423.CFM](http://BIBLE.USCCB.ORG/BIBLE/READINGS/060423.CFM)

PRAYER INTENTIONS

For the Church, on this feast of the Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ, that as our souls are nourished through the Eucharist – the source and summit of our life – and we draw closer to God and eternal life, let us pray to the Lord. . .

For people all over the world and in our own communities who hunger, that we the faithful become one Body with Christ and help take up their cross, nourish them, and lead them to Christ as they see him working in us, let us pray to the Lord. . .

For an awakening in our parishes opening our minds, eyes, words, and hearts to Christ’s True Presence in the Eucharist, let us pray to the Lord. . .

That the strength we receive in the Eucharist energizes us to be eager to be lifelong learners of our faith which in turn will enable us to be the light of Christ’s love, mercy, and hope for others, let us pray to the Lord. . .

Lord hear our prayer

Quo Vadis Retreat

Priestfield Pastoral Center

12pm June 26th - 1pm June 29th

Prayer Ropes Course
Kayaking Discernment
Camp Fires Games
Priestly Olympics

Opportunities for
Charitable and Spiritual
Works of Mercy

Boys from 6th to
8th Grade are
welcome!



**WHAT DO YOU WANT TO BE
WHEN YOU GROW UP?**

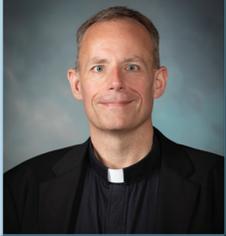
(REGISTER AT WVPRIESTS.ORG)



SEMINARIAN SUMMER ASSIGNMENTS

The Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston's Vocations Office has announced the summer assignments for seminarians. The assignments are from June 5 to July 27.

JOHN SOPLINSKI



St. Thomas Parish,
Thomas

DOMINIC RE



Institute for Priestly
Formation, Omaha, NE

BRYAN TEDESCHI



Rome Experience,
Rome, Italy

TIMOTHY KAWASH



St. James the Greater Parish,
Charles Town

NATHAN SCHMIDT



St. Joseph Parish,
Huntington

MICHAEL J. TUPTA



Sacred Heart Parish,
Princeton

JOSEPH DERICO



Spanish Immersion,
Antigua Guatemala

DONVITO CORTESE



St. Margaret Mary Parish,
Parkersburg

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Grafton - Clarksburg	AM	1190
Montgomery - Beckley	FM	89.7
Purgitsville	FM	98.7
St. Marys - Parkersburg	FM	105.3
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Summersville	FM	91.3
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Weirton - Steubenville	FM	97.9

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Liturgy of the Hours

LITURGY OF THE HOURS

Pray the prayer for this day, this hour!

EBREVIARY.COM LITURGY OF THE HOURS

Scan the QR code or visit the link below to view a PDF version of the Liturgy of the Hours.



MASS ONLINE

Saturday 6pm Masses will continue to be livestreamed from the Cathedral of St. Joseph, and will be available on our website each Sunday at DWC.ORG.