

June 2-3, 2018

The Solemnity of the Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ – Corpus Christi

Exodus 24:3-8

Hebrews 9:11-15

Mark 14:12-26

Thanksgiving = turkey, pumpkin pie, stuffing

4th of July = burgers, steaks, corn on the cob, watermelon,

St. Patrick's Day = corned beef, boiled potatoes, cabbage

Easter = ham, chocolate bunnies

Christmas = prime rib, fruit cake

Special days frequently have corresponding special foods associated with them. While the listing of dates and foods above may be augmented by each individual family/individual based on tastes and resources, it rattles the mind to think of pumpkin pie being served at Fourth of July in the same way we do not frequently have slices of watermelon available at Christmas. On this SECOND doctrinal day prior to fully embracing Ordinary Time, we are reminded of the BODY and BLOOD of Jesus, given to us in Eucharist, that is our spiritual nourishment. The Exodus account in the First Reading has the people being sprinkled with REAL BLOOD from the sacrificed animals, while off-putting to our modern ears, the ritual was an expression of the centrality of BLOOD as a way of signifying the importance of the relationship into which the Jewish people were entering with God. In our Gospel account of the Last Supper, Jesus gives wine and bread as HIS BODY and HIS BLOOD to signify the NEW COVENANT by which he is moving people from their older devotions...into a personal relationship with himself as opposed to ritual sacrifice of critters. One of our distinguishing qualities/gifts of being Roman Catholic is the centrality of Eucharist, of the invitation to a personal and intimate relationship with God. Not increased or decreased by the frequency of reception (those who go to Mass once or twice a year are as woven into a Jesus relationship as those who pursue daily/weekly reception of Eucharist), our relationship is nonetheless 'earthy' and tangible...food taken and consumed, flesh and blood – in the form of bread of bread and wine but just as real as the blood of animals once splattered upon the Old Testament people. The dry cleaners loss is our gain...but Bread Broken and Chalices offered are a sure indicator of Mass, a meal of celebration, commitment and familial ties.

With June's arrival, thank you for sharing these mid-year weeks with our Santa Clara community. Please keep the Priests and Bishops of the Diocese of Orange in your prayers as they participate with this coming week's Priest Retreat. Please note there are NO WEEKDAY MASSES throughout this week...Church is open and available for private prayer but you can treat yourselves to some extra sleep in the morning. Congratulations to our St. Francis 8th Graders who 'graduated' on Friday, may they be blessed and filled with grace as they continue their educational/formational journey of life. Father's Day envelopes by which to enroll your own dads, living or deceased, in the special June Masses, are available at the exits. Please take a Bulletin with you as you journey home and remember...it may be a new month but you are of course still loved. FKB