

The Solemnity of the Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ

Everyone longs for a miracle at some point in their lives. We look for God to show Himself in the world, in our country, in our families, and in ourselves. Because we were made by God, the scriptures rightly state that; "Our hearts are restless and they will not rest until they rest in you." But the world around us seems now more than ever to be restless. Violence, sickness, destruction and death seem to have taken hold and we long for peace in this storm which surrounds us.

Today the Church throughout the world shines light on the greatest miracle a human being can experience on this side of the grave. This miracle in nature where something can change in its very substance while its appearance and physical qualities remain the same. This miracle is called; "Transubstantiation." It occurs each time the priest offers the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass. Through the words of Jesus at the Last Supper uttered by the priest, God allows him to change bread and wine into the actual body and blood of Jesus. What rests then upon the altar, on the paten and in the chalice is the body, blood, soul and divinity of the crucified and risen Christ. A true miracle which Catholics around the world witness as they fall on their knees in worship. Yes, we kneel in an act of worship at the presence of Christ in the Eucharist. This is why men remove hats when entering the church. Each person as they reach the place where they will be sitting first genuflect toward the tabernacle. These gestures are not merely empty rituals but rather our acknowledging the "Real Presence" of Christ in the church. This presence is unique to anything else in nature. This is why God's house is the most sacred place we can come to in order to encounter Him.

During the past several weeks of restriction from public Mass many have expressed how much they miss being present during the Holy Sacrifice. We return now with joy and gratitude in our hearts and we accept the Lord Jesus, truly present in the Eucharist. You may notice as you enter the church a new brightness around you. Through the generous gift of two donors we were able to paint the entire church. The opportunity of having the church empty and without public Masses made this project possible.

Additionally, as you look around you will see new votive candle stands in front of the Blessed Mother and St. Joseph. There are new candle stands on the side of the church in the area where the statues of the saints are as well. In the old baptistry in the vestibule of the church there now is available more opportunities for devotion. Already, there is the statue of our Lady of Fatima and joining her will soon be St. John Paul II and St. Francis. These beautiful new candle stands and statues were also gifted by generous parishioners. In the coming weeks we will publicly acknowledge all those who have donated items or services to make our church look so radiant. Welcome home to Our Lady of Victories!

Peace,

Fr. Robert