



CHRIST IN THE EUCHARIST

Resources for the Feast of Corpus Christi

JUNE 6, 2021

Resources for Parish Leaders

Bulletin Announcement

Archbishop Lori invites you to Encounter Christ in the upcoming Year of the Eucharist! Over the past year, the coronavirus pandemic has created for many a painful separation from the Body and Blood of Christ - the one who truly can heal us mind, body, and spirit. On this Feast of the Body and Blood of Christ, we are reminded that Christ wants nothing more than to be united with us and invite us into the mystery that his passion, death, and resurrection have revealed: that God gave His only Son for our salvation, so that we might have eternal life with Him. Come, renew your encounter with the Risen Lord! If you have been away from Mass for a while, welcome back - Jesus has been waiting patiently for you and his Church is more complete when you are here. If you have been worshipping with us since the churches reopened, we have been blessed by your presence. Whether you have been receiving Christ sacramentally in the Eucharist or offering a spiritual communion from home, Christ has been with you and the witness to this encounter that is expressed by your lives has made a difference in this world. Over the course of the next year, we encourage you to Encounter Christ in all the ways he is present in the Mass: the sacrament of the Eucharist, the assembly of God's people, the sacred Word proclaimed, and the priest-celebrant. Keep an eye out for the many ways during this Year of the Eucharist that you can deepen your relationship with Christ, be encouraged to grow in faith with each other, bear witness to the Risen Lord, and be strengthened to serve him wherever you find yourself.

To stay up to date with Year of the Eucharist events and celebrations in our parish and throughout the Archdiocese:

- Text CHRIST2021 to 84576
- Visit www.archbalt.org/year-of-the-eucharist
- Check the parish bulletin and electronic communications for updates

Universal Prayer

For all the faithful in the Archdiocese of Baltimore, that this Year of the Eucharist would be a period of grace and renewed encounter with the Risen Lord....we pray to the Lord...

For our leaders in government, parishes, schools, and families, that the sacrificial love made manifest in the Eucharist would inspire them to be models of servant-leadership

and encourage them to persevere in the pursuit of peace, justice, and dignity for all...we pray to the Lord...

For our parish community, that we might be transformed by the Real Presence of Christ in the Eucharist to bear greater witness to his Gospel in faith, hope, and charity ...we pray to the Lord...

For those who are far away from Christ or do not know his name, that they would be led by the Holy Spirit to encounter him in Word, sacrament, the Church, and her ministers... we pray to the Lord

For those who are sick in body, mind or spirit, that their suffering would be united with Christ's and in their weakness they would draw strength from the Eucharist, which has the power to transform all suffering into a source of comfort for them and others...we pray to the Lord...

For those who have died, that they will encounter Christ in his heavenly kingdom and that those who mourn them would find comfort and healing in the nearness of Christ who meets them in the Eucharist...we pray to the Lord...

Homily Ideas

Eucharist as Thanksgiving: as we emerge from the pandemic, the Eucharist can remind us of what we are most thankful for as well as how Jesus meets us in both our joy and our sorrow

Eucharist as Source of Conversion: Christ's presence among us in the Eucharist inspires us to recognize our own faith story and, because of it, bear witness to Christ with others; in this way, the Eucharist is a continual source of conversion, particularly when we have been separated from it

Eucharist as Communion, Source of Unity with Christ and Each Other: we have endured a year of separation from the Eucharist and, because of that, a separation from each other as the Body of Christ; returning to the Eucharist allows us to reclaim the fullness of a life rooted in Christ and his Church

Christ's Sacramental Presence in the Eucharist – “This is my body ... This is my blood” – Christ's body, blood, soul, and divinity truly present (not just symbols) under the signs of bread and wine. The practice of genuflection to the Eucharist / tabernacle as a way to acknowledge this real presence of Christ. Eucharistic Adoration.

10 Things Parishes can do for the Theme I: “Encounter Christ in the Eucharist”

I. Outdoor Mass

Use outdoor mass as an opportunity not only to gather large crowds safely, but also to be visible to the public and generate awareness and interest from passersby.

II. Eucharistic Devotions (Adoration, Processions, etc...)

Adoration: Schedule a special event or a regular time (e.g. First Friday) for adoration of the exposed Blessed Sacrament. It can be just an hour or even something like “Forty Hours of Adoration”. Adapt to your circumstances – it doesn’t have to go through the night.

Eucharistic Processions are a great way to bring Jesus into the streets. Think of Pope Francis elevating the Blessed Sacrament in a monstrance over St. Peter’s Square during the pandemic (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3NEKdhfXtI8>). Get permits where necessary.

III. Lead a Study of the Eucharist through Scripture and Tradition

There are many Catholic Scripture studies on the Eucharist you can find from the various Catholic Publishers. Or you can craft your own with this starter list of readings:

- a. Institution Narratives (Mt 26:20-29, Mk 14:17-25; Luke 22:14-20, 1 Cor 11:23-25)
- b. Infancy Narrative (Luke 2:1-7) Laid in a manger (feeding trough) in Bethlehem (meaning House of Bread)
- c. Bread of Life Discourse (John 6) – coming up in the Lectionary cycle (Jul25–Aug26, 2021)
- d. Road to Emmaus (Lk 24:13-35) First Easter Sunday Eucharist
- e. Vision of Heavenly Worship; Wedding Feast of the Lamb (Rev 4:1 – 5:14)
- f. Old Testament Prefigurations:
 - i. Abraham & Isaac (Gn 22:1-18) “God himself will provide the sheep”
 - ii. Institution of Passover (Ex 12:1-14)
 - iii. Manna in the Desert (Ex 16:1-36)
 - iv. Blood of the Covenant (Ex 24:1-11)
- g. Patristic Source: the Mass described by Justin Martyr in First Apology, paragraphs 55-57. (<https://www.catholicculture.org/culture/library/fathers/view.cfm?recnum=1610>)
- h. Papal Documents:
 - i. Pope John Paul II, *Mane Nobiscum Domine*, 2004 (Vatican.va)
 - ii. Pope Benedict XVI, *Sacramentum Caritatis*, 2007 (Vatican.va)

IV. Speaker / Webinar on Eucharist

Use local speakers, like your RCIA team or Faith Formation Staff, or invite outside speakers to present. Don’t limit yourself to just catechetical content. Include stories about personal impact.

V. **Livestream & Recorded Teaching Mass**

Go through the parts of the Mass, explaining each part as you go. Consider including a Church tour with this or in a separate video that explains things like purifying the vessels (sacramentum), reserving the Eucharist in the tabernacle, bringing Eucharist to the sick (pyx), Vestments & Liturgical Colors, etc... Consider making other videos like "Mass as experienced by the Sacristan," or the Music director, or the lector, or the Eucharistic Minister, etc...

VI. **Recruit and Train Liturgical Ministers**

Think of both liturgical ministers at Sunday and daily Mass (Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion, Lectors, etc...), but also visitors to the sick.

VII. **Collect and share heartfelt personal stories about the Eucharist**

Start with asking yourself about your own encounter with Christ in the Eucharist. Think of your First Communion. Think of times you have longed for the Eucharist. Think of times you have experienced the power of the Eucharist. Think of when you have been comforted by the Eucharist. Tell your own story. Then ask others to tell theirs. Try a prompt like: "How Our Family Prepares for Mass," "What I miss most about Mass during COVID," etc... Share in your parish and submit to AOB with the YOE story submission tool at: www.archbalt.org/year-of-the-eucharist

VIII. **Family Craft: Making Communion Wafers**

Catholic Communion hosts are made with just flour and water. Combine 4 parts flour to 1 part water. Knead into a dough. Roll out thin and bake. Or watch nuns do it: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0Dxpcu5Cdl8>

Share photos on your Flocknote, Website, Social Media, and with Catholic Review

IX. **Media Contest**

Use the theme of Encountering Christ in the Eucharist. Invite submissions in any medium: art, poetry, video, essay, photography, etc. Share entries on Flocknote. Submit best entries to AOB via YOE story submission page at www.archbalt.org/year-of-the-eucharist

X. **Eucharist-Themed Books / Pamphlets**

Add books and pamphlets on the Eucharist to your literature rack, lending library, or small group reading lists. Here are some starter ideas:

- Eucharist by Bishop Robert Barron
- The Power of Daily Mass by Bert Ghezzi
- A Year with the Eucharist by Paul Jerome Keller, OP
- A Biblical Walk Through the Mass by Edward Sri
- The Lamb's Supper by Scott Hahn
- Catechism of the Seven Sacraments by Kevin and Mary O'Neill
(Lego Illustrations)
- Eucharistic Adoration Pamphlet (many vendors, including Catholic Company)

5 Low Cost Tips for Reaching Inactive Catholics and non-Catholics

I. Ask Parishioners to Invite their Friends

Once your regular parishioners have joined the AOB Flocknote (Text CHRIST2021 to 84576) and/or your own parish Flocknote, encourage them to share the info to invite their friends to join also

II. Postcard/Email/Flocknote Campaign

Target invitations to inactive or occasionally active people on your roster (e.g. donors who give only at Christmas and Easter, past Faith Formation or school families, etc...)

III. Be Intentional in Reaching out to Infrequent Visitors

Lots of folks visit our parishes at special occasions (Baptisms, Funerals, Weddings, First Communion, Confirmation) and on certain Holy days (Christmas, Easter, Palm Sunday, Ash Wednesday). Plan these events with a mind towards engaging the inactive Catholic or non-Catholic. Be tactful and non-judgmental.

IV. Enter Community Events

Parishes have had great success gaining visibility by setting up booths at their County Fair, either individually or as a region. Why not enter your Church Van & a small church group (choir?) in your local Fourth of July or Christmas Parade?

V. Have a Parish Info Card Handy

Prepare a business card or prayer card with basic parish information on it and a prayer that may touch the heart of a newcomer. Hand them out to passersby at your outdoor Mass, community events, Eucharistic processions, prayer walks, special occasion Masses and Holy Days.

VI. Bonus: (Host Events for the Community)

For a not-so-low-cost idea, host events / fundraisers open to the broader community, for example: Concerts, Carnivals, Bazaars, Open House, Outdoor Movies, etc... Team up with neighboring parishes to share costs and volunteers.