

# ENCOUNTER CHRIST IN THE CONGREGATION

*"Where two or three are gathered in my name, there am I in the midst of them"*

**MATTHEW 18:20**



## *Christ's Fourfold Presence at Mass*

**<https://bit.ly/YOE-presence>**

## *The Mystical Body of Christ*

*The whole body of Christ is mystically present at every liturgy.*



### **Learn:**

Understanding the Communion of Saints

**<https://bit.ly/YOE-COS>**

The Eucharistic Prayer: Part 3

**<https://bit.ly/YOE-EP3>**

### **Act:**

At Mass, reflect on the mystical presence of loved ones both distant and deceased, who are united into one Body of Christ, the Communion of Saints, at every Mass.

## Active Participation

*Members of the Congregation have a necessary and important role at Mass. The fuller we engage and actively participate at Mass, the fuller we are Christ's presence to each other.*

### **Learn:**

The Worshipping Assembly at Mass

**<https://bit.ly/YOE-assembly>**

Liturgical Participation

**<https://bit.ly/YOE-Participation>**

Active Participation

**<https://bit.ly/YOE-AP>**

We bear Christ's Peace to our neighbors

**<https://bit.ly/YOE-ROP>**

### **Act:**

Becoming One Person in Christ

**<https://bit.ly/YOE-one-body>**



## The Mission of the Body of Christ

*Become what you eat: Being Christ's hands and feet in the world*



### **Learn:**

We are Missioned

**<https://bit.ly/YOE-rites>**

*A Light Brightly Visible 2.0* by Archbishop Lori

**<https://bit.ly/LBV-2>**

### **Act:**

Corporal and Spiritual Works of Mercy for Families

**<https://bit.ly/YOE-WOM>**

***Family Reflection: Does Christ's presence in the Congregation inspire us to participate in our church and local community? If so, how? What gifts do we have to offer?***

**<https://www.archbalt.org/year-of-the-eucharist/>**  
**Text CHRIST2021 to 84576 to sign up for updates**



# YEAR OF THE EUCHARIST

## *Christ Present in the Congregation*

### **Bulletin Announcement**

*Where Two or Three are Gathered in My Name....*

As the churches in the Archdiocese of Baltimore continue to celebrate this Year of the Eucharist, the feast days of All Saints and All Souls give us a special opportunity to reflect on Christ's presence in the congregation. These days help us recall the beautiful communion of saints of which we are a part. United as the Body of Christ, we are one with all the faithful who have come before us throughout the ages and who now rest in the heavenly light of the triune God. Included in the communion of saints are those who have died and have not yet reached their heavenly reward. For these brothers and sisters, we especially pray at this time of year.

But we also are united with that part of the communion of saints who are pilgrims on earth. Each of us, on our own journey of faith, also are members of the Body of Christ, who by virtue of our baptism have a share in the promises of Christ. He is the Head and we are the Body, and so Christ is in us as we are in him. Jesus promised us that "where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them (Mt 18:20)." When we gather for worship, in service to others, in support of the ministries of the Church, we stand on holy ground before each other because Christ is with us and in us. Most especially, Christ is present in the sacraments – above all, in the Eucharist. Each time we partake of the Eucharist, we are transformed – becoming one with Christ and with his Body.

The Second Vatican Council document *Lumen Gentium* described it as this: As often as the sacrifice of the cross in which Christ our Passover was sacrificed, is celebrated on the altar, the work of our redemption is carried on, and, in the sacrament of the eucharistic bread, the unity of all believers who form one body in Christ is both expressed and brought about. All men are called to this union with Christ, who is the light of the world, from whom we go forth, through whom we live, and toward whom our whole life strains (*Lumen Gentium* 3).

During the month of November especially, as you approach the Blessed Sacrament or offer a spiritual communion at home, remember all those who have come before you in faith, pray for those who feel distant from the Body of Christ, and give thanks to God for the beauty of his Son made present in the Eucharist and carried into the world by the congregation.

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](http://www.archbalt.org/year-of-the-eucharist)
- Check the parish bulletin and electronic communications for updates

### **Universal Prayer**

For the Church in the Archdiocese of Baltimore, that during this Year of the Eucharist the congregation's celebration of all of the sacraments would continue to conform her ever more closely to Christ....we pray to the Lord...

For our leaders in government, parishes, schools, and families, that the words and actions of the Body of Christ would bear witness to and inspire a thirst for peace, justice, and love, especially for the marginalized and forgotten...we pray to the Lord...

For those who are far away from Christ or do not know his name, that the Holy Spirit would lead them to seek and find Christ in his Church, and that the Body of Christ would be a place of welcome, healing, mercy, and joy for them...we pray to the Lord...

For those who are sick in body, mind or spirit, that they would find comfort, strength, and healing through the ministry of the hands and feet of Christ now present in his Church...we pray to the Lord...

For those who have died, that their souls would be joined with the heavenly communion of saints and that those who mourn them would find comfort and healing the communion of saints in whom Christ now dwells on earth... we pray to the Lord...

For our parish community, that this Year of the Eucharist would remind us that we become that which we receive and in so doing encourage us more vigorously to love and serve the world as Christ taught us ...we pray to the Lord...





# YEAR OF THE EUCHARIST

## *Christ Present in the Congregation*

### **10 Things To Do For** **"Encounter Christ in the Congregation"**

1. Teaching Mass – focusing on the parts of the Mass and how to participate – catechesis on Vatican II liturgical reform
2. Online Choir Practice – Podcast of upcoming psalms / hymns / sung parts of mass online prior to liturgical celebration so congregants can learn music ahead of time
3. Parish / small group Service Projects – be intentional about connection to Eucharist – follow up with sharing discussion
4. Ecumenical activity
5. Parish Tour Video: "Litos Ergon" how the ministers prepare for Mass (Sacristans; Lector; Eucharistic Ministers; Musicians; Servers; Greeters; Hospitality; Ushers; Cleaning linens; Decorating)
6. Can pair with "How to prepare for Mass" podcast / video – pre-read Sunday scriptures, etc..
7. Liturgical Minister Recruitment and Training
8. Praying with and for the deceased members of the Body of Christ
9. Art / Music / Poetry / Essay Contest
10. Display Bl. Carlo Acutis' Eucharistic Miracles Exhibit ([miracolieucaristici.org](http://miracolieucaristici.org))





# YEAR OF THE EUCHARIST

## *Christ Present in the Congregation*

### Homily Starter Ideas

#### 1. **Greatest Commandments in Mark - "Love God; Love neighbor"**

- a. – in Mt 22:39 "the second is like it"
- b. – in Lk 10:27, both commands are folded together into one "love God and your neighbor as yourself"
- c. Loving God and Loving neighbor are two sides of same coin
- d. Compare with Mt 25; see Christ in your neighbor
- e. Encounter Christ in your neighbor; Encounter Christ in the Congregation

#### 2. **The Congregation as the mystical Body of Christ**

- a. Something is missing if I'm not present at Sunday Mass – Body is incomplete
- b. Pilgrim journey is done in community, not alone (Road to Emmaus)
- c. Praying with and for the deceased

#### 3. **Liturgical Actions of the Congregation**

- a. The necessity of the Congregation for liturgy
- b. Call / Response (Congregation responds to invocations)
  - i. Responsorial Psalm as response to the OT reading
  - ii. Creed as response to the Liturgy of the Word as opened up in the homily
  - iii. Dismissal – response to our being sent forth
- c. Joining the Angels and Saints in singing praise to God "Holy, Holy, Holy"
- d. Being neighbor to each other, especially in Sign of Peace
- e. "Full and Active Participation" (Sacrosanctum Concilium 14) – doesn't specifically mean ministerial roles for everyone, but full engagement by each person
- f. "My sacrifice and yours ..." each person brings their own sacrifice
- g. "I confess to almighty God and you my brothers and sisters ... and I ask Blessed Mary, all the angels and saints, and you my brothers and sisters to pray for me" – do I pray for my fellow congregants?

#### 4. **Uncommon church courtesies**

- a. Greeting pewmates
- b. Making space for people
- c. Welcoming and appreciating all God's children, especially noisy children, and people who sing loudly and off-key

#### 5. **The Congregation being commissioned to continue Christ's mission "Ite Missa Est"**

- a. Dismissal/Commissioning (Go forth!, Announce the gospel, Serve the Lord, Glorify the Lord by your Life, etc...)
- b. "You are entering mission territory ..." signs as you leave parking lot
- c. Eucharist = Service (Jn 13 – washing of feet)
- d. Corporal and Spiritual Works of Mercy
- e. St. Augustine: "You are what you eat" – Become the Body of Christ
- f. Missionary Discipleship