



My Dear Parishioners,

Praised be Jesus Christ and Happy Good Shepherd Sunday! This 4th Sunday of Easter has traditionally been called that because the Gospel Passage on this day is always from John 10: The Chapter on the Good Shepherd. In light of this and our celebration of First Holy Communion which is on Saturday, I share with you a few words about the PRIESTHOOD and the EUCHARIST: the two essential Sacraments of the Church, by which and with which the Good Shepherd feeds and leads us.

Among the many promises of God in the Scripture, two are worth our knowing by heart:

Jesus last words: **"Behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age" (Mt. 28,20).**

God's word to Jeremiah: **"I will give you shepherds after My own heart." (Jeremiah 3,15).**

Those Divine Promises in many ways are fulfilled for us in the Eucharist and the Priesthood. Two Gifts assured to us from God, but Gifts that need our care and prayer. For as we know, they can be abused, overlooked, taken for granted. In light of this, I share a few words this week about Care for the Eucharist and next week, Care for the Priesthood.

Care for the Eucharist

Care for the Eucharist flows from our Belief in the Eucharist. So let the Church's Teaching be clear:

As Catholics we believe that The Body and Blood of our Lord Jesus Christ is really, truly, and substantially present in the Blessed Sacrament. The Body and Blood of Christ that is really present in the Eucharist is the true, fleshly body that was born of the Virgin Mary, nailed to the Cross, laid in the tomb and resurrected in Glory. It's not a symbol, a mere-remembrance. It is Him.

Because of this Belief, Church Discipline in regards to receiving the Eucharist includes:

- a) Fasting for at least one hour before Mass. (Water and medicine do not break a fast.)
- b) If conscious of grave sin, one is asked to receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation **before** receiving Communion.
- c) Non-Catholics and Catholics not in full communion with the Church are asked to abstain from receiving Communion. (For further explanation, please see US Bishops Website.)
- d) Receive Communion with reverence and devotion. Before approaching the Eucharist, make a reverential bow. The proper response to Eucharist is "Amen". If you choose to receive in the hands, place your right hand over your left in the shape of a little throne to receive the King of kings. Please consume the host immediately.

Thirty years ago this year, Pope John Paul II wrote a book entitled **CROSSING THE THRESHOLD OF HOPE**. In that book, he reflected on the mystery of evil and opined that often when thinking of evil, we wonder why God remains far away. But he suggested, it's not that God has remains far away, but that He is too close and we miss Him and in missing Him, evil occurs. Let us not MISS Him in the Eucharist!

Peace, Fr. Rogers

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St. Patrick Parish
Rosary
Sunday Evenings
7:00 PM
via Zoom

To join us online visit www.zoom.us. Select Join and enter
 Webinar ID: 859 4073 5946
 Passcode: stpatsksq

Additional login details and to submit your prayer requests
 can be found on the parish website.

JOIN US IN CELEBRATION



50 Years Golden Jubilee of Priesthood
Rev. Michael C. Connolly, OSFS
Sunday, May 5, 2024
1:00 PM
St. Joseph Room