



# ALL SAINTS' CHURCH

THIS SUNDAY June 18 & BEYOND

## Remain with Him



This Sunday we'll celebrate the feast of Corpus Christi, where we give thanks especially the Real Presence of Jesus in the Eucharist. Following the feeding of the 5,000 (John 6:1-13), some people have come to Jesus looking for more bread, but in the gospel lesson (6:47-58), He's offering them much more. Jesus points to the manna in the wilderness to explain who He is and what He's come to do, which is to sustain us and remain with us.

In the first lesson from Deuteronomy, Moses reminds the people how God sustained them throughout their 40

years in the wilderness with the miraculous bread from heaven, and Jesus gives us His Body and Blood to feed our spiritual hunger in the desert of fallen creation.

This is an infinitely greater miracle because it's not just a sign of God's presence among his people, but Jesus Himself literally becoming a part of us when we receive it. With Jesus promising to remain with us, we're presented with another parallel from the Exodus: the question of whether we want to remain with Him.

I think Psalm 106:14-15 describes the major theme of Exodus perfectly when it says, "A craving seized them in the wilderness... [God] gave them what they asked, but sent leanness into their soul." God drew near, but they pulled away because they couldn't recognize that He was the fulfilment of all their desires. Jesus faces the same rejection in the verses following Sunday's lesson, where many stop following Him after He emphasizes even more strongly that it is only through His Body and Blood that we come to the Father (see John 6:60-66). Even though the Eucharist is

an incomprehensibly miraculous gift, we still have to train our hearts to fully receive it, and we can start with what we do on the outside.

First and foremost, try to receive Communion as much as possible, but at least do everything in your power to order your Sunday around it. Fast for at least an hour before Mass and arrive early enough to prayerfully prepare, which includes setting aside other concerns, examining your conscience, and simply telling Jesus that you love Him. It's also helpful to read through the lessons beforehand, inviting Jesus to speak to you through them. As you receive, ask for the grace to know Jesus as He wants to be known and love Him as He wants to be loved, and then afterwards, offer thanksgiving and simply try to enjoy His presence. If that sounds like a lot, don't be intimidated. If we just treat the Eucharist with reverence and approach it with the genuine expectation that Jesus meets us there, He'll make up the difference and help us begin to open our hearts to all He has to offer.

## CALENDAR

SUNDAY:           Feast of Corpus Christi  
                  8:00a Low Mass (Church)  
                  9:30a Christian Formation (Fireside Room)  
                  10:30a Solemn Mass (Church)

—*The entrance to the church is on 6<sup>th</sup> Avenue*—

*Note: Child care is provided at the 8:00a, 10:30a Mass, Coffee Hour & Fellowship follow the Mass in the Parish Hall.*

MONDAY           7:00p (AA) Doctors' Group (Fireside Room)

TUESDAY:       Noon Mass (St. Mary's Chapel)

THURSDAY       6:30p Evening Prayer (St. Mary's Chapel)

FRIDAY:           9:00a Morning Prayer (St. Mary's Chapel)  
                  9:30a Mass (St. Mary's Chapel)

AA Meetings  
                  8:00p Ladies' Group (Fireside Room)  
                  8:15p Men's Group (Parish Hall)