

LITURGY BYTES

Importance of the Eucharist

With the beginning of First Holy Communion celebrations here at Holy Cross, I thought a few reflective thoughts about the greatest gift we have been given would be in order.



The bishops of the United States created a three-year plan to revive and foster Eucharistic devotion in the hearts of us, the faithful. Believing in the Real Presence of Christ in the Eucharist is what makes Catholics different from other Christians. At Mass, the bread and wine are truly transformed into Christ's Body and Blood. We call this the Real Presence. There is absolutely no doubt that Jesus is present under the forms of bread and wine. The bread and wine ARE NOT symbols. Each week we have the opportunity to receive Jesus at Mass. The Mass is the summit and source of the Christian life. Yet, you and I both know many have fallen away from joining us at Mass on weekends. Why?

Because of COVID, some drifted away and were satisfied watching the livestream at home. For a short period, this was welcomed, and many felt it was better than nothing. However, just sitting and watching seems empty without the experience of coming forth to receive Jesus in your hands. Even those who are homebound have the opportunity to receive Our Lord at least once a week, thanks to those Eucharistic Ministers who serve our parish's homebound. I am certain there are many others, not homebound, who continue to remain at home instead of attending Mass in person. If you know someone who is homebound because of illness or age and would like to receive Our Lord, please contact the Outreach office. We have many Eucharistic Ministers who would be happy to bring that person Communion each week. Also, for those who might wish to serve as a Eucharistic Minister for the weekend Masses, we always need your assistance. Think about it and be sure to speak to Fr. Michael.

Have a blessed, thankful, and healthy week ahead! ~ *Michele Hall*