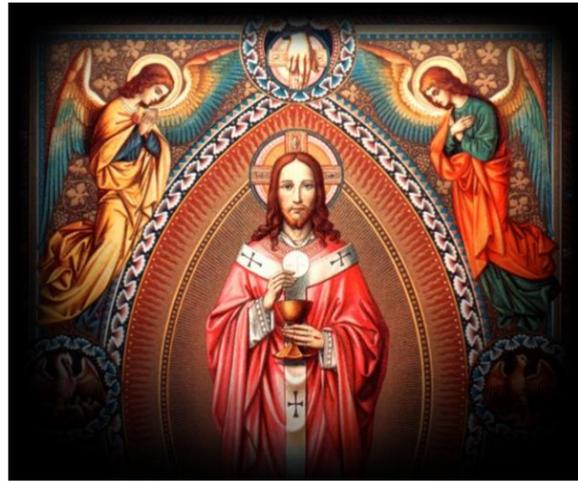


## The Solemnity of the Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ – June 6, 2021



### Sunday's Readings

#### First Reading

*Exodus 24:3-8*

The covenant is established between God and the people.

#### Responsorial Psalm

*Psalms 116:12-13, 15-16, 17-18*

God brings salvation.

#### Second Reading

*Hebrews 9:11-15*

Christ is the mediator of the new covenant.

#### Gospel Reading

*Mark 14:12-16, 22-26*

Jesus shares his Last Supper with his disciples.

#### Background on the Gospel Reading

Today, the second Sunday after Pentecost, we celebrate a second solemnity, which marks our return to Ordinary Time in the liturgical calendar. Today is the Solemnity of the Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ. At one time, this day was called *Corpus Christi*, the Latin words for “the Body of Christ.” In the most recent revision of our liturgical rites, the name for this day is expanded to be a more complete reflection of our Eucharistic theology.

In our reading for today, we read the account of the Last Supper found in the Gospel of Mark. It begins

with the instructions that Jesus gave to his disciples to prepare their Passover celebration. It then goes on to give an account of the Last Supper. On this Sunday, however, our Lectionary reading omits the verses between these two passages; in those omitted verses we hear Jesus predict his betrayal by one of his disciples.

The Gospel of Mark describes Jesus' Last Supper with his disciples as a celebration of the Jewish feast of Passover. The Jewish celebration of Passover is a memorial to and a ritual participation in the defining moment of Israel's history. It celebrates God's deliverance of his people from slavery in Egypt. The Passover meal includes many ritually important elements, such as unleavened bread, lamb, and bitter herbs. Each food item recalls an aspect of the Exodus event. The instructions for the preparation of this meal are carefully prescribed in the Law of Moses. It is a central obligation of the Jewish faith tradition to celebrate this meal and to give thanks to God for his deliverance and protection.

In the description of the Passover meal found in today's Gospel, however, Mark omits many elements of the Jewish Passover meal. Instead he describes only those elements he believes to be most essential to the Christian Eucharist: Jesus took bread, blessed the bread, broke the bread, and shared it with his disciples. Similar words and actions follow as Jesus shares the chalice with his disciples. This bread now shared is Jesus' own body. Those who drink from the chalice are invited to share in a new covenant which will be sealed by Jesus' own blood. Mark's Eucharistic theology looks forward to the Kingdom of God that Jesus inaugurates.

The Gospel for today reminds us that the Eucharist is a memorial of Christ's sacrifice on the cross. We believe that Jesus is truly present to us in the elements of bread and wine. Each time we celebrate this sacrament, we prepare for the Kingdom of God. This celebration, as the Second Vatican Council taught us, is the source and summit of the Christian life.

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Grant, O Lord, we pray, that we may delight for all eternity in that share in your divine life, which is foreshadowed in the present age by our reception of your precious Body and Blood. Who live and reign for ever and ever. Amen.

#### SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT

Fr. Joe has completed his 6 years as a pastor in Mount Forest, and the bishop has now assigned him to be a pastor at St. Patrick's parish in Cambridge.

Fr. Joe will be greatly missed!

Fr. David Avila is coming to our parish as a new pastor on June 30, 2021.

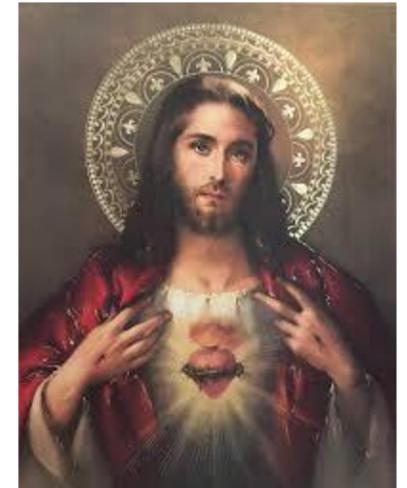
Let us keep both Fr. Joe and Fr. David in our prayers.

**FR. JOHN O'BRIEN S.J.** offers a silent Ignatian Retreat for young professionals from June 4<sup>th</sup> (evening) to June 6<sup>th</sup> (noon). There are two versions of the retreat, one in-person and one online. In the words of Pope Francis, “*Christ is alive and he wants you to be alive!*” The retreat will nurture a “heart to heart” encounter with the Sacred Heart, the living symbol of the God who has loved us relentlessly from the beginning. Check it out.

**CARE FOR CREATION SCHOOL** is under the direction of Norman Levesque, Diocesan Officer for Creation Care Ministry, Diocese of Saint-Jean-Longueuil (near Montreal) and a member of the *Laudato Si* working group of the Vatican Dicastery for Integral Human Development. The School offers a selection of quality courses which explore integral ecology. Check out the website.

**THE ONE HEART, ONE SOUL CAMPAIGN** continues steadily through its final wave, with the total raised to date over \$33.3 million! Four final parishes, unable to launch in the Spring, will conduct their campaigns in the Fall. Through the difficulties of last year, the generosity of people has not wavered. Our goal of \$35 million is well within reach – and surpassing it will be cause for celebration and thanksgiving! Kudos to Francis Doyle and his team!

**THE OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE CIRCLE** is a gathering of Indigenous, Religious, Lay, and Bishops, who advise the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops on matters relative to relations with Indigenous Catholics. The Circle published a Pentecost 2021 Message, one of their first publications. It is an interesting reflection and a good read.



### Most Sacred Heart of Jesus- June 11

The heart of Jesus is adored as a symbol of his threefold love: human, spiritual and divine. In the Old Testament, this love is described as a father's love for his children or husband's for his wife. In the New Testament, the promise of living water, the Holy Spirit, is fulfilled in the pierced heart of the Messiah. Image of the Sacred Heart of Jesus in home has become a sign that the love of Jesus rules over the family.

**BLESSED BISHOP LOUIS-ZEPHIRIN MOREAU** was beatified by Pope St. John Paul II in Rome on May 10, 1987, He was the 4<sup>th</sup> Bishop of Saint-Hyacinthe, and served from 1875 to 1901. This year marks the 120<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of his death. Bishop Christian Rodembourg, M.S.A., the current Bishop of St. Hyacinthe, has invited our prayers for the *canonization* of the beloved Bishop. A copy of the prayer can be found on our website.

**“Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood remains in me and I in him,” says the Lord.**

Take a moment and think about

the BLESSING in your life.

Even during tough times,

we have so much to be thankful for.

**Mental prayer in my opinion is nothing else than an intimate sharing between friends. -St. Teresa of Avila**