**From the Pastor's Desk**

What the Eucharist exactly means?

The Eucharist, simply put, is God.  The Eucharist is God the Son, fully present in our world.  It is Jesus, the eternal Son of God, fully present.  The Eucharist is His Body, Blood, Soul and Divinity. God is made present to us in this form through the use of signs and symbols.  But we should not fail to believe that the Eucharist is much more than signs and symbols.  It could be said that the bread is a symbol of His Body, and the wine is a symbol of His Blood.  This is true, but it is also far from complete.  We must follow up that statement by saying that the bread, a symbol of His Body, actually becomes His Body, and the wine, a symbol of His Blood, actually becomes His Blood.  We call this Transubstantiation.  That’s a big word with a lot of meaning.

“Transubstantiation” means that the substance is transformed.  It’s changed.  But it also means that the external aspects of the bread and wine remain the same.  They do not change to our sight, taste, touch or smell.  They look the same, feel the same and taste the same.  But they are not the same in their essence.

Dear friends, try to imagine two primary parts of a piece of bread and a glass of wine.  There are the external aspects and the essence.  The external aspects are all those perceptible by the senses.  But the essence is not perceptible in any way.  By analogy, it could be like closing your eyes and smelling a rose-scented perfume.  Your nose tells you that a rose is before you; but, in reality, it is a manufactured fragrance.  Your nose is deceived as to the essence of what is before you.  It’s not an actual rose, it’s just chemicals.  The exact opposite is true with the Eucharist.  In fact, the Eucharist is even more “deceiving” in that all of our senses detect only bread and wine.  We can break the bread and hear it crack, taste it, etc.  Our senses tell us this is bread.  But, in essence, it has been transformed into God, in the Person of Jesus the Son. In order to understand this properly, we need a sort of “sixth sense.”  We need the spiritual sense of faith.  Faith is a gift by which we come to know, with certainty, that this is no longer bread.  Rather, it is God.  It is the Body, Blood, Soul and Divinity of God the Son.  No amount of studying, reasoning, or arguing will convince us of this truth.  But faith will.  In fact, faith will convince you so deeply that you can come to believe with your whole being.  And this is a conviction and level of belief that we can never arrive at using only our five senses or reasoning ability.  If this is hard to believe, then it’s a sign that God wants to deepen your faith in the Eucharist.  He wants you to meet His divine presence there in the depth of your soul.  He wants you to know Him, love Him, adore Him and surrender your life to Him in this precious gift. So, If you want to fully grasp the Holy Mass and understand the full meaning of the Holy Eucharist, then you must understand this most precious gift from three perspectives: Sacrifice, Sacrament and Communion. These three together make up the full meaning and reality of the Holy Eucharist.

**Have a blessed Sunday everyone.**

***Spend A Day***

***“***All students grades k-12 are invited to come spend a day at Resurrection Catholic School during Catholic Schools Week, Jan. 30 – Feb.3!

Students are invited to “shadow” RCS students to learn more about RCS. For more information, please contact Mrs. Nanette Whitehead for the RCES campus at [nwhitehead@rcseagles.com](mailto:nwhitehead@rcseagles.com) or Mrs. Kristal Sisson for the RCMHS campus at [ksisson@rcseagles.com](mailto:ksisson@rcseagles.com) Remember, pre-registration for next school year begins January 29!”

***SACRAMENT Of RECONCILIATION*:**

Fr. Peter is available for Confession every day, before daily Mass and after, or by appointment.

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***Annual Mardi Gras Ball***

The Knights of Columbus presents “Circus Fun for Everyone” 12th annual Mardi Gras Ball on February 11, 2023. Tickets are $20 per person. BYOB and BYOF. Setups will be provided. Tickets will be on sale after all masses.Must be at least 21 years old to attend. Attire is semi-formal (no jeans), also Themed Costumes are encouraged, but not required. There will also be a Table Decoration Prize for the Best Decorated table. Doors open at 6:30 p.m. with Court Presentation at 7:00 p.m.

***MASS FOR FAMILY & FRIENDS*:** The calendar is OPEN; you can have Masses offered for the deceased as well as for living family and friends ($10 stipend per Mass). Mass cards and envelopes are available at the Parish office. We strongly advise that you contact the office if you wish to have a Mass celebrated on a specific date. If a Mass Intention has already been scheduled for that date, your Mass Intention will be rescheduled on the next available date.

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| --- | --- | --- |
| ***MASS*** | ***LECTOR*** | ***Altar Servers*** |
| Sat Jan 14  4:00 pm CK | Suzy Humphrey |  |
| Sat Jan 14  6:00 pm HS | Doris Santa Cruz |  |
| Sun Jan 15  9:15 am CK | Shirley McCusker | Addie Illich |
| Sun Jan 15  11:00 am HS | Mark Hopkins | Cooper Flurry Addison Smith Brileigh Brown |
| Sun Jan 15  4:00 pm HS | Tommy Ross |  |

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| Stewardship | | | |
| Date | Holy Spirit | Christ the King |  |
| **1/15** | 2315 | 1150 | Offering |
|  | 845 | 300 | Building Fund |

**HOLY SPIRIT ACTIVITIES: 6705 Jim Ramsay**

**Road, Vancleave, 39565**

**Altar Society –** Margaret Brenke, President

**Maintenance** – Mark Hopkins 2nd & 4th Saturday.

**Bible Study** – Wed. after 8:00am Mass and Tuesday evenings at 6:30pm in the Parish Hall.

**CK&HS COMBINED ACTIVITIES**

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| ***MASS*** | ***LECTOR*** | ***Altar Servers*** |
| Sat Jan 14  4:00 pm CK | Suzy Humphrey |  |
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**K of C Meeting:** 1st Wed. of the month at 7pm.- KC Hall

**Parish Charity:** Tuesdays- 4:30pm.-5:00pm *C.K.*

**Boy Scouts Troup 826: Michael Rosas -**Tuesdays-6:30pm- HSCC

**CHRIST THE KING ACTIVITIES**

**10601 Daisy Vestry Rd, Latimer, MS 39565**

**Altar Society/Flowers** – Tina Shoemaker, President.

***PRAYER REQUESTS***

***Please pray for vocations to the Priesthood, Diaconate, and Religious Life.* Please pray for our seminarians:**, Chris Collins, John Olivier, Deacon Adam Frey, Marcelo Gois, and Jacob Lott,; **and permanent deacons;** ***our Service Men & Women:*** Robert Brown, Chad Parker, James Griffith, Scott Fisher, Patrick Ekhlas, Josh Iler, Michael Ferencak, Bruce Spearnock, Kris Moe, Joshua Cook, Adriana Hill-Cook and Matthew Ekhlas***; those in nursing or assisted living homes and*** ***those who are ill:*** Maria Kmiecik, Rhonda Borries, Richard Arguelles, Pam McKay, Jane Benoit, Nathan Smith, Doug Borries, Pat & Pete Dacri, Bunny & Albert Lechner, Joe Martin, Albert Santa Cruz, Thomas Newman, Sandra Hill, Beverly Reese, Mary Osterman, Nell Kieff, andMiguel Saavedra.

***Bible Study***

Holy Spirit Parish will begin our eleven-week Bible study James: Pearls for Wise Living on Tuesday evening, January 17th at 6:30-8p.m. There is a sign-up sheet in the front of the Church or contact Deacon Johnny at jingsfmly@gmail.com.