Blessed Sacrament Parish
Weekly Email June 20, 2025

Saint John Henry Newman was an Anglican Bishop who joined the Catholic Church and became a Cardinal. He famously said, "To be deep in history is to cease to be Protestant." Many Protestants who study the Church to better attack it, end up become Catholic themselves. Scott Hahn is a famous example. As we celebrate this Feast of the Body and Blood of Christ, I want to share words written by Saint Justin Martyr to the Roman Emperor around this year 150. He wanted to explain what Christians believed and did. Listen first to his description of how Christians worshipped. See how much it is like today.

"And on the day named after the sun, all who live in the city or countryside assemble, and the memoirs of the apostles or the writings of the prophets are read for as long as time allows (READINGS). When the lector has finished, the presider addresses us, admonishing us and exhorting us to imitate the splendid things we have heard (PREACHING). Then we all stand and pray (GENERAL INTERCESSIONS).

"When we finish praying, we greet each other with a kiss (SIGN OF PEACE). Then bread and a cup containing water and wine are brought to him who presides over the brethren. The wealthy who are willing make contributions, each as he pleases, and the collection is deposited with the presider who aids widows and orphans, those who are in want because of sickness, those in prison, and visiting strangers; in short he takes care of all who are in need (COLLECTION & BRINGING GIFTS TO THE ALTAR).

"He takes them (THE BREAD AND WINE) and offers prayer, glorifying the Father of all things through the name of the Son and the Holy Spirit. …The presider offers prayers of thanksgiving, and the people give their assent with an 'Amen' (THE EUCHARISTIC PRAYER AND GREAT AMEN). "Those who we call 'deacons' distribute the bread and wine over which the thanksgiving has been spoken to each of those present; they also carry them to those who are absent." (COMMUNION TO THE SICK & HOMEBOUND)

Listen as Saint Justin describes what Christians believe about the Eucharist: "For we do not receive these things as though they were ordinary food and drink. Just as Christ our Savior was made flesh through the Word of God and took on flesh and blood for our salvation, the food over which the thanksgiving has been spoken becomes the flesh and blood of the incarnate Jesus in order to transform our flesh and blood.'"

Rejoice in the presence of Christ, Body, Blood, Soul, and Divinity.
Receive this gift of Jesus' Body and Blood.
Remember that you are given this gift to share our faith with others.

Fr. Paul

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Parish website https://www.blessedsacramentwv.org
Faith in West Virginia https://faithinwv.org/latest-bulletin
This Sunday's Readings https://bible.usccb.org/bible/readings/062225.cfm
Wednesday Bible Handout
This Sunday's Bulletin

Announcements and Reminders

HAPPY FEAST DAY! this Sunday is the feast of the body and blood of Christ. There is a covered dish pasta-palooza immediately following this Saturday's Mass. Bring your favorite pasta, salad, or garlic toast, etc. and yourself. Be sure to take home a bottle of wine or grape juice and some bread to enjoy.

Garden Committee Meeting

Please join us at **12:30pm on Sunday, June 29th** in the parish hall. We will share a proposal for our Mary garden, ask your thoughts about crops to grow in the fall/winter, and catch you up on progress with the rain garden.

POEM|HYMN

Let all mortal flesh keep silence,
And with fear and trembling stand;
Ponder nothing earthly-minded,
For with blessing in His hand,
Christ our God to earth descendeth,
Our full homage to demand.

King of kings, yet born of Mary,
As of old on earth He stood,
Lord of lords, in human vesture,
In the body and the blood;
He will give to all the faithful
His own self for heav'nly food.

Rank on rank the host of heaven
Spreads its vanguard on the way,
As the Light of light descendeth
From the realms of endless day,
That the pow'rs of hell may vanish

As the darkness clears away.

At His feet the six-winged seraph,
Cherubim with sleepless eye,
Veil their faces to the presence,
As with ceaseless voice they cry:
"Alleluia, Alleluia
Alleluia, Lord Most High!"
This link will take you to a sung version of this hymn that nearly moves me to tears.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8wl4u8lnDQs

If the link doesn't work, do a search for
Let all Mortal Flesh Keep Silence by Fernando Ortega

MYSTIC MORSEL by Saint Francis of Assisi

Let everyone be struck with fear,
the whole world tremble,
and the heavens exult
when Christ, the Son of the living God,
is present on the altar in the hands of a priest!
O wonderful loftiness
and stupendous dignity!
O sublime humility!
O humble sublimity!
The Lord of the universe,
God and the Son of God,
so humbles Himself
that He hides Himself
for our salvation
under and ordinary piece of bread!

See the humility of God, brothers,
and pour out your hearts before Him!

Humble yourselves that you may be exalted by Him!

Hold back nothing of yourselves for yourselves,
that God Who gives Himself totally to you
may receive you totally!

WIT, WHIMSY, & WHATEVER

A 6-year-old and a 4-year-old are raking the yard. The 6-year-old asks, "You know what? I think it's about time we started learning to cuss". The 4-year-old nods his head in approval. The 6-year-old continues, "When we go in for breakfast, I'm gonna say something with hell and you say something with ass." The 4-year-old agrees with enthusiasm. When the mother walks into the kitchen and asks the 6-year-old what he wants for breakfast, he replies, "Aw, hell, Mom, I guess I'll have some Cheerios."

WHACK! He flies out of his chair, tumbles across the kitchen floor, gets up, and runs upstairs crying his eyes out, with his mother in hot pursuit, slapping his rear with every step. His mom locks him in his room and shouts, "You can stay there until I let you out!" She then comes back downstairs, looks at the 4-year-old and asks with a stern voice, "And what do YOU want for breakfast, young man?" "I don't know", he says, "but you can bet your ass it won't be Cheerios."