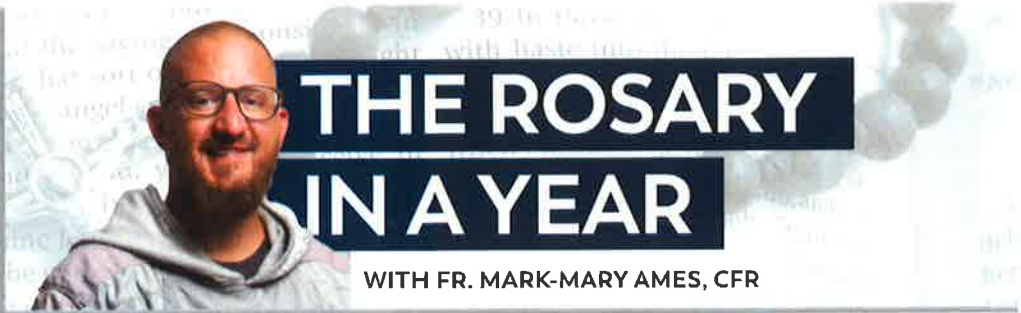


Week 25



PHASE 3: MEDITATING ON THE MYSTERIES

The Sorrowful Mysteries

CRUCIFIXION:

A Heart of Purity



Jesus, the Savior of the world, is nailed to the Cross and dies, offering himself with unconditional love and mercy for us as the ultimate sacrifice for our sins, while forgiving his persecutors and entrusting Mary and the apostle John to each other.

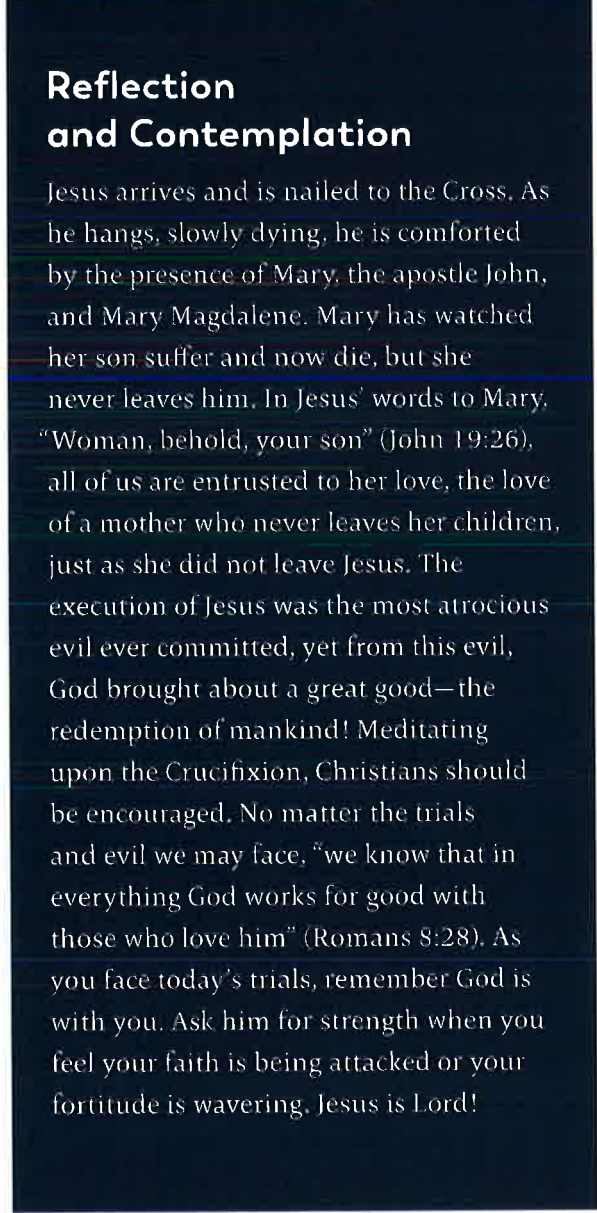
Fruit of this mystery: We pray for a holy heart.

Scripture: Luke 23:33–46

And when they came to the place which is called The Skull, there they crucified him, and the criminals, one on the right and one on the left. And Jesus said, “Father, forgive them; for they know not what they do.” And they cast lots to divide his garments. And the people stood by, watching; but the rulers scoffed at him, saying, “He saved others; let him save himself, if he is the Christ of God, his Chosen One!” The soldiers also mocked him, coming up and offering him vinegar, and saying, “If you

are the King of the Jews, save yourself!” There was also an inscription over him, “This is the King of the Jews.” One of the criminals who were hanged railed at him, saying, “Are you not the Christ? Save yourself and us!” But the other rebuked him, saying, “Do you not fear God, since you are under the same sentence of condemnation? And we indeed justly; for we are receiving the due reward of our deeds; but this man has done nothing wrong.” And he said, “Jesus, remember me when you come in your kingly power.” And he said to him, “Truly, I say to you, today you will be with me in Paradise.”

It was now about the sixth hour, and there was darkness over the whole land until the ninth hour, while the sun’s light failed; and the curtain of the temple was torn in two. Then Jesus, crying with a loud voice, said, “Father, into your hands I commit my spirit!” And having said this he breathed his last.



What stood out to you about your Rosary experience this week?

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The Rosary in a Year is a daily podcast, produced by Ascension and hosted by Fr. Mark-Mary Ames, CFR. It takes Catholics on a journey to form a lasting habit of prayer and gain tools to enter more deeply into meditation on the lives of Jesus and Mary through the Rosary. This bulletin was adapted from the podcast and materials that complement the podcast.

Sunday Q&A

Your Faith in Focus

COME AND SEE: JESUS WAITS

Why visit Jesus in the Eucharist?

Today is a feast dedicated to Jesus' Real Presence in the Blessed Sacrament. Not only can, and should, we receive Jesus in Holy Communion, we can—and should!—spend time adoring him in the Eucharist beyond the Mass. Fr. Mike Schmitz modernizes an ancient invitation today.

A Visit Changes Everything

I want to present to you an invitation to visit Jesus in the Eucharist. But before I do, think about this (and a few other things): Jesus makes himself so vulnerable that he sometimes gets placed in our hands or on our tongue. He abides in the tabernacle, just waiting for us to come by, waiting for us to enter into his Real Presence—and not only to enter into a “music” that is awesome and a “video” that is incredible, but also to enter into a silence that envelops our heart. Do that, and do not fear the silence or be afraid if anyone is going to be there.

When I was in high school at the age of fifteen or sixteen, I encountered Jesus truly present in the Eucharist. I had read about it, and when it happened, I was like, “Oh my gosh, this changes everything! That blows my mind.” I said, “OK, I’m going to go to Adoration for one hour every week.”

About the Saints...

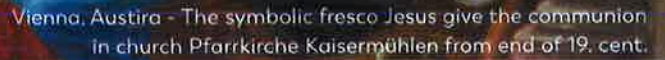
I had read stories of the saints who would go into the Lord's Presence in the tabernacle, and I'd read that, for them, hours would feel like minutes. And so, I settled in. Well, I'll tell you this: minutes felt like hours. I didn't know what I was doing. I didn't know what I was supposed to be doing. I put a lot of pressure on myself to just say, “OK, how do I do this right?” The answer, of course, is there's no wrong way to adore the Lord. There's no wrong way to abide or rest in his Presence. Jesus just waits for you in the Eucharist.

But I have to tell you this. There are many times when I have not wanted to pray. There are many times when I've been like, “I'm so busy. I can do other things; I'll just drive past the church.” But when I have stopped and gone inside to the tabernacle, I have never thought afterward, “Well, I just wasted ten minutes,” or “I just wasted half an hour.” Never. Any time with Jesus is precious.

The Invitation

So here is your personal invitation: Just be with Jesus, no matter how much time, whether a lot or just a little, you may have with him. He always wants to spend time with you. Jesus is so humble. He is so vulnerable, and he waits for you.

So why keep him waiting?



- What is the general state of my prayer life right now? What's going well? What should I focus on?
- When and how can I make time in my week to be with Jesus in the Eucharist?

This image shows a single sheet of white paper with horizontal blue or grey ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are approximately 20 lines visible. The paper appears to be a standard notebook page or a sheet of stationery designed for writing.

Set a specific plan to spend some time with Jesus this week, whether in an Adoration chapel or simply a visit to church, where he is always present in the tabernacle. Write down the date you will go, and make it concrete like an appointment card. (Consider putting the plan on your phone calendar.) Write it here, too, to make sure that it's a true appointment.

Place:

or visit the URL: <https://media.ascensionpress.com/video/what-really-happens-in-eucharistic-adoration/>

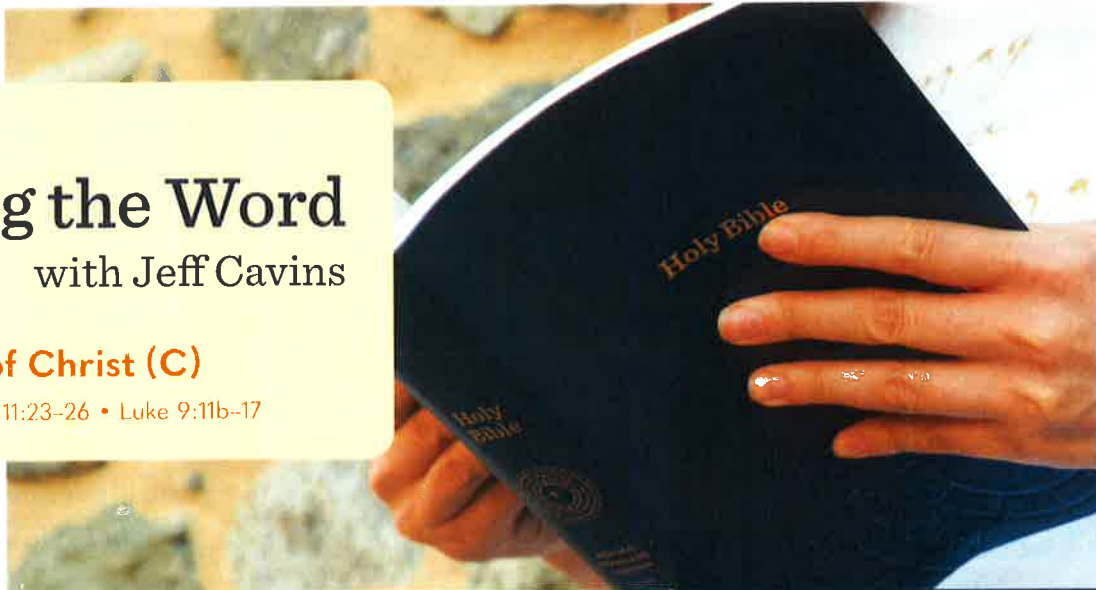


Encountering the Word

with Jeff Cavins

Body and Blood of Christ (C)

Genesis 14:18–20 • 1 Corinthians 11:23–26 • Luke 9:11b–17



Trust God with Your Treasure

The significance and holiness of the great gift of the Eucharist is the focus of the Solemnity of Corpus Christi, the Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ. In today's readings, we see how the tradition of the Eucharist was handed down from Christ to the apostles and then to us. In 1 Corinthians, St. Paul reminds us, "I received from the Lord what I also handed on to you." This is the essence of Tradition—handing on the teachings of Christ, particularly his gift of the Eucharist.

In Luke's Gospel, we encounter the story of the feeding of the five thousand. The disciples are overwhelmed by the crowd's hunger and suggest sending them away—a reaction many of us can relate to when faced with overwhelming needs! Yet Jesus responds with something different: "Give them some food yourselves" (Luke 9:13). Though the disciples have only five loaves and two fish, they bring what they have to Jesus. He blesses it, breaks it, and miraculously multiplies it, meeting the needs of thousands.



The key to this miracle is that whatever we have—no matter how small—is enough when placed in the hands of Jesus. We see this reflected in the lives of the saints, like St. Teresa of Calcutta (Mother Teresa), who offered her humble resources to Christ and witnessed him transform them to feed the world. Jesus invites us to do the same. As we receive his Body and Blood, he nourishes us, empowering us to bring our own "five loaves and two fish" to him. Trust that he will take what little we offer and multiply it, using us to meet the needs of those around us and to transform the world in ways we never imagined.

Live the Gospel

Where in your life do you feel you don't have enough? If you feel this way, you are with Jesus and the five thousand. Jesus said, "Give them some food yourselves." With five loaves and two fish, he performed a miracle. So, think of a small gift you can give to Jesus, trusting that he will multiply it. Surrender your limitations to him and watch how he can use *you* to meet the needs around you.

Dive Deeper

Scan this code to watch:



Or go to

<https://media.ascensionpress.com/video/solemnity-of-corpus-christi-c/>

Ponder and Pray

» When faced with overwhelming needs or challenges in your life, how do you respond? Do you trust that offering what little you have is enough in the hands of Jesus?

» How can you let the nourishment of the Eucharist empower you to step out in faith and serve those in need, even when you feel like you have little to offer?

» How might God be calling you to offer your “five loaves and two fish” to make a difference, trusting that he will use your small acts of faith to do great things?

“ **For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the death of the Lord until he comes.**

—1 Corinthians 11:26 ”

Make It Your Own

You and others in your household may use this space to write anything about today's Mass. It might be your view of Jeff Cavins' reflection, your priest's homily, your answers to the questions on this page—anything to help you and your household get the most out of today's Mass.



CELEBRATE JESUS' REAL PRESENCE



Genesis 14:18–20 • 1 Corinthians 11:23–26 • Luke 9:11b–17

Family Car Talk

Jesus says, *"I am the living bread that came down from heaven; whoever eats this bread will live forever; and the bread that I will give is my flesh for the life of the world"* (John 6:51). On the way home from Mass today, talk with your family about the Eucharist and how you can make this gift from Jesus a more meaningful part of your family life.



Ask people in the car to share a memory from the day they received their First Communion. If some people in your family have not received it yet, ask what they most look forward to.



Do you say any special prayers during the Consecration at Mass or when you receive Jesus in the Eucharist?

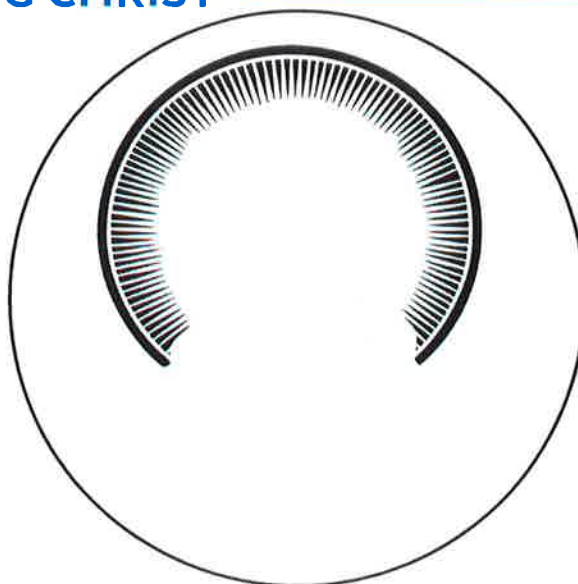


Have you ever been to Adoration? What was it like? Describe it to younger siblings, and talk with your family about how you can work together to visit Jesus in the Eucharist this week.

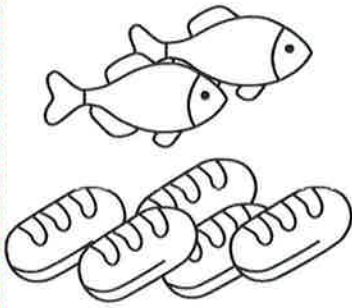


THE LIVING CHRIST

Instructions: Every Sunday at Mass, the Real Presence of Christ is his gift to us. Today's special occasion is the Solemnity of the Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ. Bring the image of Our Lord alive by coloring it, filling it in with a pencil, or whatever you wish. Make this picture of Christ yours!



Instructions: In today's Gospel, Jesus somehow feeds the 5,000 with five loaves of bread and two fish. How many loaves and fish would you need to have in order to feed the people? Draw as many loaves and fish as you think might feed this huge crowd. And then think about Jesus' miracle.



Week Twenty-Five

Days 169–175



Divided Kingdom Narrative: 1 Kings 22; 2 Kings 1–7 | Supplemental: 2 Chronicles 23–28;
Song of Solomon 8; Hosea 1–7; Psalms 69–70, 72, 101, 103, 127

KNOWING AND SERVING GOD IS PARAMOUNT



The prophets Elijah and Elisha
crossing the Jordan River

This week's readings may help us to better understand the complexity of the history and the historical figures that play a role in God's plans for the world through his covenant with the Jews. We meet new kings, prophets, advisors, foreigners, and common people. Our task is to see how God is present in the lives of these figures and in their stories as a whole.

- At the end of 1 Kings and the beginning of 2 Kings, evil Ahab's successor, Ahaziah, turns to Baal-zebub, the god of Ekron, to know the future. As a result, Elijah tells him he will die in his unfaithfulness.
- In 2 Kings 2, the prophetic work of Elijah transitions to Elisha. In the Bible, the eldest son inherits a double share of the father's property. Here, Elisha asks for a double portion of Elijah's spirit. So Elisha regards himself as the "son" of Elijah and asks for his inheritance.
- Apart from palace intrigues and wars between the kingdoms of Judah and Israel that flared up during the several hundred years of a divided kingdom, the two sides sometimes cooperated.
- In 2 Kings 3, an alliance is formed between Jehoram (king of Israel) Jehoshaphat (king of Judah), and an unnamed king of Edom to go to war against Moab.
- Kings sometimes begin their times as rulers well but then decide to turn from God. This is the case with King Joash in 2 Chronicles 24.
- The prophet Hosea's life is challenging to read about, but it contains important parallels with the other readings of the week.
- Hosea is called to witness to the Lord in his words and actions. The Lord tells him to marry a prostitute, Gomer, knowing she will be unfaithful. Hosea is called to be like the Lord because Gomer will be like the people of Israel—unfaithful.
- "My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge" (Hosea 4:6). Nevertheless, they have all the information they need in the Torah, including the Ten Commandments. They lack a personal desire to know and serve God.

Dive Deeper

"Knowing God" means much more than knowing about him. It is having a relationship with him, which requires a consistent, focused prayer life. Today, reflect on how you pray. What are some ways you can make your prayer deeper and more consistent?

Bible Answers

How can we keep track of everything that is going on in 2 Kings?

2 Kings is a compilation of the actions of kings from two kingdoms—Israel (north) and Judah (south). (Most of these kings turn away from the Lord.) This narrative sets the background for Jesus' descent from the line of Judah. Also, pay attention to where each king is from. Northern kings are called the kings of Samaria, Israel, or Ephraim. Southern kings may be said to be from Judah or Jerusalem.



Scan the QR code to listen to the *Bible in a Year* podcast on the Ascension app, to get exclusive content, and to access transcripts for every episode. Download the reading plan at <https://media.ascensionpress.com/category/ascension-podcasts/bibleinayear/>

The Bible in a Year is a daily podcast, produced by Ascension and hosted by Fr. Mike Schmitz, where we read the whole Bible following *The Great Adventure* Bible-study program created by Jeff Cavins. This bulletin was adapted from *The Bible in a Year Companion* books that complement the podcast.

Week 25

Paragraphs 1234-1289



THE CATECHISM IN A YEAR

WITH FR. MIKE SCHMITZ

By "analogy of faith" we mean th

How We Worship PART TWO: THE CELEBRATION OF THE CHRISTIAN MYSTERY

WHAT DOES BAPTISM DO?

Baptism is not just a custom. It changes our fallen nature and makes us God's adopted sons and daughters. God has made Baptism necessary for salvation. In his desire for all to know him and be saved through Baptism, God calls us to share the mission. If we keep someone from Baptism, we withhold a crucial gift. The graces of Confession, the Eucharist, and Confirmation empower us for sharing Christ's mission with the world.

Keep in Mind

- Baptism is "the sacrament of faith" necessary to "enter the kingdom of God" (CCC 1236; John 3:5).
- We are born under dominion of sin. Baptism changes our human nature in order for us to become sons and daughters of God.
- Water is essential in Baptism because submersion into water represents both dying and washing.
- Baptism includes a rite of exorcism that explicitly renounces Satan and his dominion.
- Any unbaptized person of any age can receive God's free grace in Baptism.
- Bishops, priests, and deacons ordinarily administer Baptism, but "in case of necessity," anyone can baptize using water and the words of Baptism in the name of the Holy Trinity (CCC 1256).
- "God has bound salvation to the sacrament of Baptism, but he himself is not bound by his sacraments" (CCC 1257).
- God makes a way for every person to have a chance to say "yes" to him.
- Baptism heals Original Sin in our souls, but we still suffer the consequences of sin, including pain, sickness, death, and concupiscence (attraction to sin).



The sacrament
of Baptism

Dive Deeper

Infant baptism reveals the completely free gift of God's saving grace (see CCC 1250).

Do you know your baptism birthday? Reflect upon the significance of your baptism and renew your baptismal promises.

- Everyone baptized is a temple of the Holy Spirit called to spread God’s Word.
- Baptized Catholics have the right to be fed by Scripture and the sacraments. Priests must administer Confession if asked.
- Baptized Catholics are obliged to share the Faith and the Good News.
- No sin can undo the “indelible spiritual mark” of Baptism (CCC 1272).
- Confession and the Eucharist, two sacraments we frequently receive, reveal that God continuously seeks and invites us to participate in his life.
- Baptized Catholics share Jesus’ priesthood, so at Mass we participate with him in the sacrifice of the Eucharist.
- Receiving “Confirmation is necessary for the completion of baptismal grace” (CCC 1285).
- Confirmation unites a baptized person more completely to the Church.
- Confirmation mirrors Pentecost, when the apostles received the Holy Spirit to carry out Jesus’ mission.
- The Holy Spirit empowers us “to spread and defend the faith by word and action ... to confess the name of Christ boldly, and never to be ashamed of the Cross” (CCC 1303).

Use the space below to reflect on this week's content.

Take It to Prayer

God Our Father, thank you for the gift of Baptism and making us into your children. Thank you for making us temples of your Holy Spirit. Please give us a fire of love, faith, and hope to rekindle what you placed in our hearts at Baptism. We pray through Jesus Christ, Our Lord. Amen.



The best place to listen along is the Ascension app. Scan the QR code to get exclusive bonus content and transcripts for every episode.

The Catechism in a Year is a daily podcast produced by Ascension and hosted by Fr. Mike Schmitz. It helps us understand what it means to be Catholic by reading the entire *Catechism of the Catholic Church* and allowing those truths to shape our lives. This bulletin was adapted from the books that complement the podcast: *The Catechism in a Year Companion* by Petroc Willey, Fr. Mike Schmitz, and Matthew Doeing.