

# THE MOST HOLY BODY AND BLOOD OF CHRIST

All parishioners are invited to participate in the special feast of Corpus Christi on Sunday, June 7, 2026. Also referred to as the Solemnity of the Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ, the feast honors Christ's presence in the Holy Eucharist! To celebrate, we are planning a Eucharistic procession with the 11:00 AM Mass. Just like Eucharistic Adoration, Eucharistic Processions are an extension of the worship of Jesus Christ, truly present in the Blessed Sacrament. By walking with Him, we experience what the disciples did 2000 years ago as they walked with Jesus, proclaiming the Good News to the world. And, we are reminded that we are called to go out and bring Jesus to others.

At St. John's, the Eucharistic Procession will begin with Exposition in the church and then will proceed around the church with brief stops at three outdoor altars. At each altar, the monstrance is placed on the altar and the congregation is led in prayers and hymns followed by a Eucharistic Benediction. The procession then returns to the altar in the sanctuary for Solemn Benediction and reposition of the Eucharist.

Following the Eucharistic Procession, the congregation is invited to the parish hall to share a meal.

A key ingredient to this event is YOU! Here are some ways that you can be part of this special event

- Altar Attendants - You will ensure each altar is properly prepared for the procession. All materials will be provided.
- Canopy Bearers - You carry one of the six poles that support a canopy which creates a sacred space for the Eucharist throughout the procession.
- Band members - If you are an adult or youth instrumentalist, join the band to provide musical praise as we process.
- Photographers - Help record the event by capturing key moments of the day!

Contact the parish office if you would like to help in these roles.



# THE SPIRITUAL SIGNIFICANCE OF PROCESSIONS

The procession is a liturgical act that has deep roots in Christianity. Looking back to the Old Testament, we recall God's command to the Israelites to march in solemn procession around the walls of Jericho bearing the Ark of the Covenant, a ritual which secured that city's downfall (Jos. 6:1-27). King David, too, processed with the Ark of the Covenant into Jerusalem (2 Sam. 6; 1 Kings 8). These Old Testament processions were intended to be acts of faith in God's awesome power, a sacred act that was both a prayer and a gesture of adoration. Similarly, our Lord's procession into Jerusalem on Palm Sunday was simultaneously an act of thanksgiving and adoration for the arrival of the long-promised Messiah.

Processions not only express these pious sentiments but do so in a communal way. Mystically, the procession calls to mind our status as pilgrims. All of us are journeying towards our heavenly homeland, for "here we have no lasting city, but we seek the city which is to come"



"The annual procession on the feast of Corpus Christi... has a special importance and meaning for the pastoral life of the parish or city... When the Eucharist is carried through the street in a solemn procession with singing, the Christian people give public witness of faith and devotion toward the sacrament". Says Pope John Paul II, **"The devout participation of the faithful in the Eucharistic procession on the Solemnity of the Body and Blood of Christ is a grace from the Lord which yearly brings joy to those who take part in it"**. He continues: **"In the humble signs of bread and wine, changed into the body and blood, Christ walks beside us as our strength and our food for the journey, and he enables us to become, for everyone, witnesses of hope"**.

St. John's will be celebrating this special feast on June 7th with Mass, a Eucharistic procession around the church building, and a parish lunch. Mark the date on the calendar and watch the bulletin for additional details.

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# THE SPIRITUAL REASONS TO PARTICIPATE IN THE CORPUS CHRISTI PROCESSION

## 1. Publicly profess our of faith in the Eucharist

Why do we celebrate Corpus Christi? First, because we desire to make an open profession of our faith in the Blessed Sacrament. Our Lord is really and truly present in this wonderful Mystery. This is our belief and in this belief we shall live and die. Our faith rests on the word of the Son of God and His word is truth. Were we as poor as beggars we should still be immensely wealthy in the possession of this belief. Just as the flowers turn their faces to the sun, so our hearts turn to this source of light and grace. We should not be ashamed to show our belief openly and joyfully.

## 2. Publicly honor and adore Jesus

Why do we celebrate Corpus Christi? Secondly we wish publicly to honor and adore Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament. The Sacrament of our Lord's Love receives much dishonor...For all these insults and sins we desire to honor and adore Jesus openly and publicly. In a similar way to how engaged couples publicly profess their love on the day of their wedding, so too are we encouraged to publicly profess our love of Christ on Corpus Christi.

## 3. Publicly thank Jesus

Why do we celebrate Corpus Christi? Thirdly because we wish to thank our Lord openly. He is the Supreme Being and yet He always desires to be with the children of men. We may come to Him and tell Him everything. He will listen to us and gladly help us. He is the All Holy One and yet it is His desire to come into our hearts. What great love and grace this is! Should we not return a childlike and sincere gratitude for all this?

*Excerpt from The Church Year: Talks to Children. Copyright 1923, Heinrich Stieglitz, The MacMillan Company.*



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# WHAT CAN I EXPECT DURING THE CORPUS CHRISTI PROCESSION?

The Corpus Christi procession will be an extension of the 11:00 AM Mass on June 7th. The final blessing of the Mass is omitted and the procession ensues as follows:

- **Exposition** - The congregation kneels as the priest places the Blessed Sacrament in a monstrance. A hymn of praise, O Salutaris Hostia, is sung as the priest incenses the Blessed Sacrament.
- **Procession** - While the priest who carries the monstrance is central to the procession, other groups of people will precede and follow him. These groups include the Knights of Columbus color guard, the First Communion class, and altar servers. All members of St. John's parish are invited and encouraged to join the procession around the church building.

• **Note:** *Golf carts will be available for those that need assistance. Please contact the parish office if you would like to participate in this way or need any other type of assistance. We are working to ensure everyone is able to participate!*



- **Altars** - *The procession will stop at three outdoor altars for prayer, song, and a blessing.*



- **Benediction** - The procession will then return to the church sanctuary for benediction. During benediction, all participants kneel in deep reverence and devotion as the priest blesses the congregation with the Eucharist, invoking divine grace upon the worshippers.
- **Reposition** - The Blessed Sacrament is returned to the tabernacle after which all stand and join in singing Holy God We Praise Thy Name.
- **Following the procession, all are invited to the parish hall to share a meal!**

**In preparation for the day, please join us in praying the Corpus Christi Novena beginning on Friday, May 29th through Saturday, June 6th**

# CORPUS CHRISTI NOVENA

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

I thank You, Jesus, my Divine Redeemer, for coming upon the earth for our sake, and for instituting the adorable Sacrament of the Holy Eucharist in order to remain with us until the end of the world.

I thank You for hiding beneath the Eucharistic species Your infinite majesty and beauty, which Your Angels delight to behold, so that I might have courage to approach the throne of Your Mercy.

I thank You, most loving Jesus, for having made Yourself my food, and for uniting me to Yourself with so much love in this wonderful Sacrament that I may live in You.

I thank You, my Jesus, for giving Yourself to me in this Blessed Sacrament, and so enriching it with the treasures of Your love that You have no greater gift to give me.

I thank You not only for becoming my food but also for offering Yourself as a continual sacrifice to Your Eternal Father for my salvation.

I thank You, Divine Priest, for offering Yourself as a Sacrifice daily upon our altars in adoration and homage to the Most Blessed Trinity, and for making amends for our poor and miserable adorations.

I thank You for renewing in this daily Sacrifice the actual Sacrifice of the Cross offered on Calvary, in which You satisfy Divine justice for us poor sinners.

I thank You, dear Jesus, for having become the priceless Victim to merit for me the fullness of heavenly favors. Awaken in me such confidence in You that their fullness may descend ever more fruitfully upon my soul.

I thank You for offering Yourself in thanksgiving to God for all His benefits, spiritual and temporal, which He has bestowed upon me.

In union with Your offering of Yourself to Your Father in the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass, I ask for this special favor, (mention request here...)

If it be Your holy Will, grant my request.

Through You I also hope to receive the grace of perseverance in Your love and faithful service, a holy death, and a happy eternity with You in Heaven.

O Lord, You have given us this Sacred Banquet, in which Christ is received, the memory of His Passion is renewed, the mind is filled with grace, and a pledge of future glory is given to us.

You have given them bread from Heaven, Having all sweetness within.

Let us pray, God our Father, for Your glory and our salvation You appointed Jesus Christ eternal High Priest.

May the people He gained for You by His Blood come to share in the power of His Cross and Resurrection by celebrating His Memorial in this Eucharist, for He lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, forever. Amen.

O Jesus, since You have left us a remembrance of Your Passion beneath the veils of this Sacrament, grant us, we pray, so to venerate the sacred mysteries of Your Body and Blood that we may always enjoy the fruits of Your Redemption, for You live and reign forever. Amen.

# THINGS YOU WILL SEE IN A EUCHARISTIC PROCESSION

Liturgical celebrations involve signs and symbols relating to creation (candles, water, fire), human life (washing, anointing, breaking bread) and the history of salvation (the rites of the Passover). Here are some of the items that are part of a Eucharistic Procession.

**Monstrance** - This is the liturgical vessel used to display the Blessed Sacrament for public veneration. The name “monstrance” comes from the Latin word, monstrare, which means “to show”. Made with precious metal, they are often designed to look like the sun with the Sacred Host displayed in a transparent glass “luna” in the middle and golden beams radiating outward. The symbolism reminds us that Jesus, in the Eucharist, radiates his love and grace out into the world and into our lives.



**Humeral Veil** - This is a liturgical vestment worn on the priest's shoulders. It allows the priest or bishop to hold the monstrance without touching it with his hands. This is a reminder that we are not focusing on the action of the priest; rather, it is Christ himself who walks with us and blesses us.

**Processional canopy** - Cloth covering which creates a sacred space for the Blessed Sacrament throughout the procession. It is reminiscent of the tent of the Lord's presence where God dwelt with the Israelites in the wilderness.

**Processional Cross** - The cross is lifted high at the front of the procession with the figure of the crucified Christ facing the direction towards which the procession is moving. This is symbolic of the Christians being followers of Christ.

**Candles** - The candle is symbolic of Christ, who is the light of the world!

**Thurible with Incense** - Metal censer held by chains in which incense is burned. The incense symbolizes both the prayers of the people rising up to God as well as the great beauty and mystery of the Eucharist.

**Boat** - Container for holding the incense.

**Bells** - The bells are used to draw the attention of the gathered assembly to the presence of the King and to create a joyful noise for Him.

**Altars** - The procession will stop at four altars during the process (three outside and the altar in the sanctuary). At each altar, prayers are offered and a blessing is given. The altars signify that we are called to go out and bring Jesus to the four quarters of the world.

