
THE EUCHARIST

The Source and Summit of the Christian Faith

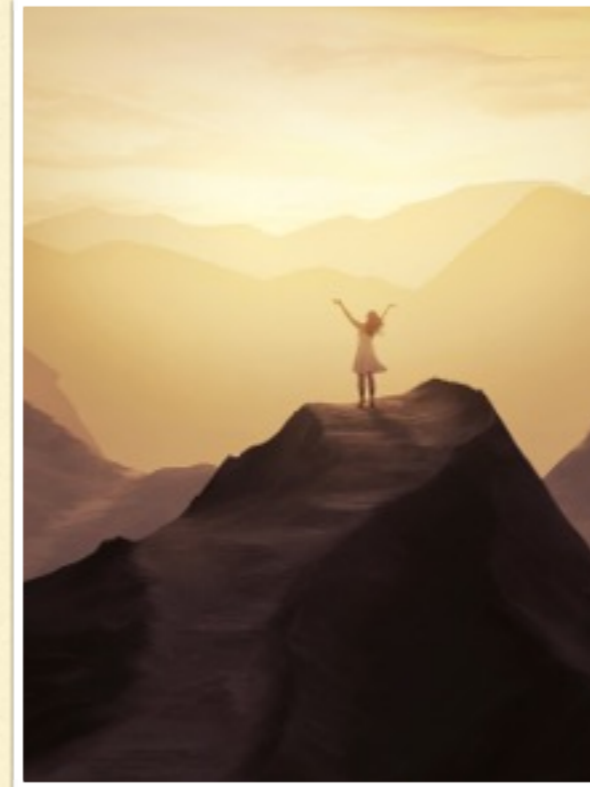
TOPICS FOR TODAY



- What is it?
 - The Eucharist and Passover
 - The elements of the Eucharist
 - The Sacred Vessels of the Eucharist
 - Who may receive the Eucharist?
 - Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament
-

WHAT IS THE EUCHARIST?

- Body Blood Soul and Divinity of Jesus Christ
- Source and Summit of our Faith
- Our way of thinking is attuned to the Eucharist, and the Eucharist in turn confirms our way of thinking.”
cccc#1327
- Foretaste of Heaven and participation in the heavenly choir of praise
- Communion with God and the body of christ...the church



In choosing to receive the Eucharist the faithful join the Angels and Saints in their never-ending hymn of praise. In this way we on earth are given the opportunity to glimpse the peace of heaven and enter into union with God. Furthermore, when receiving communion one proclaims belief in the teaching of the church and subscribes the Nicene/Apostles Creed. It is for this reason the church discourages non-catholics from receiving communion. They are not a part of the Catholic Communion. They are to a degree a part of the mystical body of Christ, but are not fully a part of it as they do not acknowledge the fact that the Catholic Church proclaims the fullness of the truth.

EUCHARIST AND PASSOVER



- Christ instituted the Eucharist on the passover feast.
- Christ is the new paschal lamb and the eucharist the new feast.
- This is my body this is my blood do this in remembrance of me.
- John 6:48-58, 66-68
- Mt 26:26-28
- Lk 22:19-20

The scripture upon which
the Eucharistic Prayers
and the teaching on
the real presence are based

During the passover meal Christ institutes a new feast. He institutes the Eucharist drawing parallels between the passover described in the book of Exodus and the new feast. He is the new Paschal Lamb. He is the new manna (exodus manna from heaven to feed the jews while they were waiting to enter the promise land) sent down from heaven purposed with nourishing the soul for eternal rather than temporal life. Through the reception of Holy Communion the soul is forgiven of venial sins and strengthened against temptation. There are those who compare the reception of communion to the marital embrace in which husband and wife become one flesh both spiritually and physically. By consuming the body and blood of Jesus Christ we become one with him. Our soul is gifted with a vision of heaven and sings His praise has He extends His paternal love and salvation.

ELEMENTS OF THE EUCHARIST

- Unleavened Bread
- Wine with at least 5% alcohol
- Transubstantiation
 - The accidentals stay the same but the substance changes
- Its a Mystery



From time to time you hear people say why can't they make that bread taste better, or why can't they offer grape juice. The sacred elements of the Eucharistic Celebration must be unleavened bread (bread that contains gluten and water) and wine that contains at least 5% alcohol. These elements and these alone are acceptable, because these were the elements used when Christ first instituted the Eucharist at the Last Supper. The elements of the Eucharist are also used as one explanation for why priests may only be male. Christ chose a male form for the incarnation, and so in keeping with tradition the Church only permits males to be priests. During consecration (the Eucharistic Prayers) the priest becomes *In Persona Christi* (Becomes the person of Christ). At that moment Christ dwells within the priest in a certain profound way and enacts the miracle of the Eucharist changing the bread and wine into His body and blood. Through this mystery it is Christ not a "special power" of the priest or even the priest himself that makes consecration possible.

THE SACRED VESSELS

Chalice

The vessel in which the wine, and after consecration the blood, is kept for the Eucharistic Celebration.

Paten

This is a plate of gold or silver upon which the large bread for consecration rests until the Offertory.

Purificatory or Chalice Cloth

This is a linen cloth used for wiping the chalice, and the fingers and mouth of the celebrant after Communion. It is spread over the cup of the chalice at the beginning and end of Mass.

Pall

This is a square pocket-shaped piece of linen with a cardboard inserted in order to stiffen it. It is placed over the chalice to prevent dust or other matter falling into it.

Ciborium

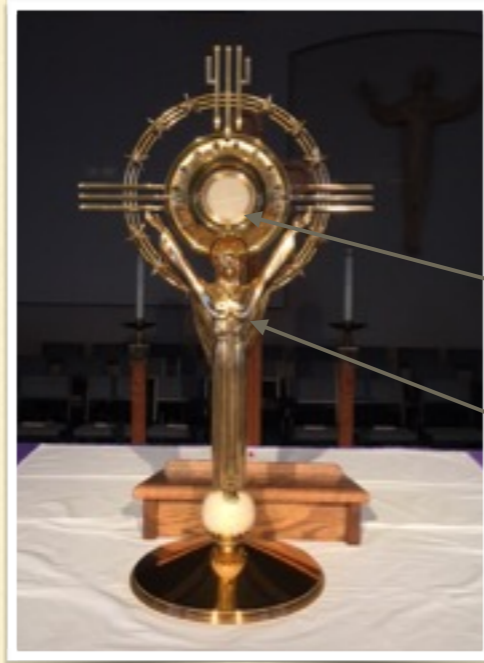
The vessel that contains consecrated host for distribution and storage. They take the form of a plate as seen here or as a chalice like vessel with a lid.

Pix

A vessel for ministers to the home bound, sick, and dying in which the host is stored during travel.



THE SACRED VESSELS



Luna

The vessel in which the Blessed Sacrament is held for Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament. It is designed to fit in the center of the monstrance.

Monstrance

The vessel in which the luna is placed for adoration of the Blessed Sacrament.

THE SACRED SPACES

Ambo

The place from which the word of God and the universal prayer (petitions) is proclaimed during the liturgy of the word. It is also the proper place from which to give sermons.

Altar

The object on which the host is consecrated. In keeping with tradition all altars must have relic of saint within them. Ours has a relic of

Sanctuary Candle

Informs the congregation that the Tabernacle contains the Body, Blood, Soul and Divinity of Jesus Christ made manifest in the Host made safe in the tabernacle. This is taken from the Jewish tradition of having alighted candle in the temple to signify the presence of God.

Tabernacle

Informs the congregation that the Tabernacle contains the Body, Blood, Soul and Divinity of Jesus Christ made manifest in the Host kept safe in the tabernacle.

