

NATIONAL EUCHARISTIC REVIVAL

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Welcome to this special section of the bulletin dedicated to the National Eucharistic Revival! As our parish continues to observe the second phase of this historic event, we are pleased to provide this dedicated space to weekly information on matters pertaining to the Revival. In addition to

announcements regarding special activities and events, this section provides a regular listing of resources, catechesis and directives which are intended to help foster a deeper devotion and a greater understanding of the Holy Eucharist. We invite you to look over this section each week for new and updated content and we pray that as you do so, you will grow in your appreciation and love for Jesus in the Most Blessed Sacrament.



NATIONAL
Eucharistic
Congress

Register Your Seats NOW!

Call Anne Houston (973-479-6467)
before December 6th

At the National Eucharistic Congress, the Church will draw into a deeper intimacy with our Eucharistic Lord, allowing our eyes to be opened and our hearts to be set on fire with his love. This historic five-day gathering (July 17-21, 2024) will be an experience of prayer: a liturgical act offering the Catholic Church – those in attendance in Indianapolis as well as across the country – to the Father, through the Son, and in the Holy Spirit. This reconsecration will result in a massive outpouring of grace and renewed missionary sending as participants are moved to share the Eucharistic love of the Lord “for the life of the world” (John 6:51). This is a pivotal moment in both American history and the legacy of the Catholic Church. (It is the first National Eucharistic Congress in 83 years!) Tens of thousands of pilgrims are expected to attend – but space is limited. To ensure that the Diocese of Metuchen is well-represented, we are pleased to announce that the diocese has purchased 100 tickets to next summer’s Congress. These packages include transportation to and from Indianapolis, as well as hotel accommodations.

OFFICIAL PRAYERS NATIONAL EUCHARISTIC REVIVAL

O 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.

MY GOD, I believe, I adore, I hope and I love Thee! I beg pardon for those who do not believe, do not adore, do not hope and do not love Thee.

O MOST HOLY TRINITY, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, I adore Thee profoundly. I offer Thee the most precious Body, Blood, Soul and Divinity of Jesus Christ, present in all the tabernacles of the world, in reparation for the outrages, sacrileges and indifference by which He is offended. By the infinite merits of the Sacred Heart of Jesus and the Immaculate Heart of Mary, I beg the conversion of poor sinners.



NATIONAL
Eucharistic
Pilgrimage

The National Eucharistic Pilgrimage has publicly launched! The NEP (<https://www.eucharisticpilgrimage.org/>) will consist of four cross-country Eucharistic processions, collectively traversing the entire continental United States over a two-month period, beginning during the feast of Pentecost, May 17-19, 2024.

The pilgrimage is being organized by the National Eucharistic Revival campaign in conjunction with Modern Catholic Pilgrim, a Catholic nonprofit dedicated to deepening the faith across the country through pilgrimages. Along the way, the pilgrims will make stops in major US cities, churches, Catholic colleges, and holy sites. Parishes along the routes will host Mass, adoration, devotions, praise and workshop, lectures on the Eucharist, and more.

The Seton Route, which will begin in New Haven, Connecticut, will be passing through the Diocese of Metuchen on May 27-29, 2024. The four pilgrimage processions will ultimately converge in Indianapolis on July 16, 2024, to participate in the National Eucharistic Congress. Adam Carlisle, Secretary of Evangelization and Communication, will be helping to organize our diocese’s involvement. If anyone is interested in assisting with this important event, please feel free to contact Adam Carlisle at acarlisle@diometuchen.org

“A thousand years of enjoying human glory is not worth even an hour spent sweetly communing with Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament.”

- St. Padre Pio

THE MYSTERY OF THE EUCHARIST IN THE LIFE OF THE CHURCH is the 2021 United States Catholic Conference of Bishops document on the Eucharist – the doctrinal source text for the National Eucharistic Revival. To read the document, visit the Bishop's Conference Official Website at: www.usccb.org.

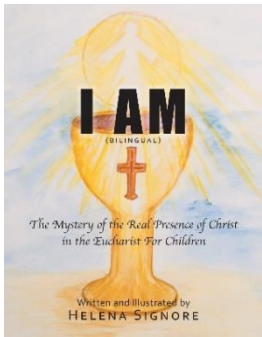
PERPETUAL ADORATION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT



Our parish offers Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament 24/7 in our Eucharistic Adoration Chapel located in the Parish Center. We are very blessed to be the only parish in the Diocese of Metuchen to offer Perpetual Adoration. We welcome and encourage you to regularly visit our chapel and to invite others as well.

RESOURCES FOR CHILDREN - *Pick of the Week*

I Am: The Mystery of the Real Presence of Christ in the Eucharist For Children (English and Spanish Edition) by Helena Signore



I AM was written because there was no resource specifically unwrapping the mystery of the Real Presence for children, which is a challenging topic for First Communion preparation. Presented in English and Spanish in a teasing question, prediction and answer format and illustrated with engaging watercolor and ink, I

AM is designed to take the reader on an active journey of thinking and responding. It is packed with visual imagery of hidden surprises in nature and tied to biblical miracles of the burning bush of Moses, the divinity of Jesus, as well as the wedding at Cana and the multiplication of loaves and fishes. As the story progresses the narrator voice drops out and the child, who has been predicting answers, begins asking the questions, to which God answers, "I AM". This leads to a touching conclusion at the altar.

This book is published by *WestBow Press* and may be purchased at most religious book stores and on AMAZON.COM.

RESOURCES

TO HELP FOSTER DEVOTION TO THE HOLY EUCHARIST

The following items are available at the Parish Center:

- Blessed Sacrament Prayer Book - \$8.00
- Sacred Heart Prayer Book - \$8.00
- Visits to the Blessed Sacrament (Booklet) - \$8.00
- The Blessed Sacrament – God with us (Booklet) - \$5.00
- Devotion to the Sacred Heart (Booklet) - \$5.00
- Prayers of Reparation to Our Eucharistic Lord - \$2.00
- Monstrance Lapel Pin - \$2.00

**“Let nothing disturb you,
Let nothing frighten you,
All things are passing away.
God never changes.
Patience obtains all things.
Whoever has God lacks nothing;
God alone suffices.”**

- St. Teresa of Avila

EUCCHARISTIC GUARDIANS



We are always in need of more Eucharistic Guardians. Eucharistic Guardians dedicate themselves to an hour of silent prayer each week in the presence of the Blessed Sacrament. They make Perpetual Adoration possible by assuring that Jesus is never left alone. For more information or to sign up, please call the Parish Office or Gerry Aboyme at 732-266-4145.

“O Jesus! on this day, you have fulfilled all my desires. From now on, near the Eucharist, I shall be able To sacrifice myself in silence, to wait for Heaven in peace. Keeping myself open to the rays of the Divine Host, In this furnace of love, I shall be consumed, And like a seraphim, Lord, I shall love You.”

- St. Therese of Lisieux

“Nowhere on earth are we more welcomed or loved than by Jesus in the Eucharist...When you look at the crucifix, you understand how much Jesus loved you. When you look at the Sacred Host you understand how much Jesus loves you now.”

- St. Teresa of Calcutta

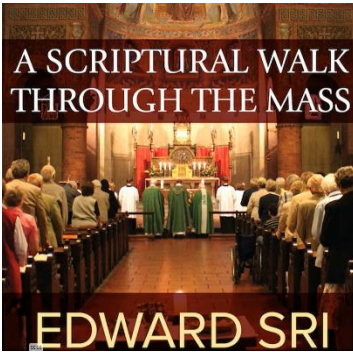
Learn more about the Sacred Liturgy and the Holy Eucharist on

FORMED

This week, we recommend the following Series:

A Scriptural Walk Through the Mass

By Edward Sri



For Catholics, the Mass is entirely familiar, but often not well understood. Scripture scholar and well-known author Dr. Edward Sri takes listeners on a journey through the sacred liturgy that is sure to help Catholics experience the Mass more fully as the most powerful and important

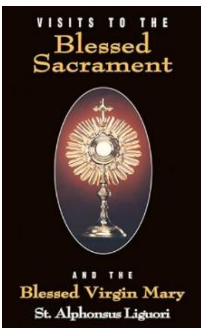
prayer of the Church. Dr. Sri examines the historical and biblical roots of the words, prayers, actions, and gestures contained within the Mass in order to arrive at a deeper understanding of their significance.

BOOKS ON THE HOLY EUCHARIST

Pick of the Week

Visits To The Blessed Sacrament and the Blessed Virgin Mary

by St. Alphonsus Liguori



This book was conceived and written by the great St. Alphonsus Liguori to help us grow in the knowledge and love of God and in appreciation for what He has done for us. Designed to be prayed in front the Blessed Sacrament each day over the course of a month, users of this powerful book cannot help but grow closer to Christ. Visits to the Blessed Sacrament provides a wealth of spiritual treasures, including:

- 31 days of meditations and fervent prayers of love by St. Alphonsus toward Jesus in the Most Blessed Sacrament.
- A daily "Visit to Our Lady," short prayers of confidence in the enormous power of Our Mother's help
- An act of Spiritual Communion for each day, reigniting our love for Our Lord even when we cannot receive His Body and Blood in the Eucharist

This book is published by TAN Books and may be purchased at most religious book stores and on AMAZON.COM.

The Fruits of Holy Communion

Holy Communion augments our union with Christ. The principle fruit of receiving the Eucharist in Holy Communion is an intimate union with Christ Jesus. Indeed, the Lord said: "He who eats my flesh and drinks my blood abides in me, and I in him." Life in Christ has its foundation in the Eucharistic banquet: "As the living Father sent me, and I live because of the Father, so he who eats me will live because of me." ...What material food produces in our bodily life, Holy Communion wonderfully achieves in our spiritual life. Communion with the flesh of the risen Christ, a flesh "given life and giving life through the Holy Spirit," preserves, increases, and renews the life of grace received in Baptism. The growth in Christian life needs the nourishment of Eucharistic Communion, the bread for our pilgrimage until the moment of death, when it will be given to us as viaticum.

Holy Communion separates us from sin. The body of Christ we receive in Holy Communion is "given up for us," and the blood we drink "shed for the many for the forgiveness of sins." For this reason the Eucharist cannot unite us to Christ without at the same time cleansing us from past sins and preserving us from future sins...As bodily nourishment restores lost strength, so the Eucharist strengthens our charity, which tends to be weakened in daily life; and this living charity **wipes away venial sins**. By giving himself to us Christ revives our love and enables us to break our disordered attachments to creatures and root ourselves in him. By the same charity that it enkindles in us, **the Eucharist preserves us from future mortal sins**. The more we share the life of Christ and progress in his friendship, the more difficult it is to break away from him by mortal sin. The Eucharist is not ordered to the forgiveness of mortal sins—that is proper to the sacrament of Reconciliation. The Eucharist is properly the sacrament of those who are in full communion with the Church.

The unity of the Mystical Body: the Eucharist makes the Church. Those who receive the Eucharist are united more closely to Christ. Through it Christ unites them to all the faithful in one body—the Church. Communion renews, strengthens, and deepens this incorporation into the Church, already achieved by Baptism. In Baptism we have been called to form but one body. The Eucharist fulfills this call: "The cup of blessing which we bless, is it not a participation in the blood of Christ? The bread that we break, is it not a participation in the body of Christ? Because there is one bread, we who are many are one body, for we all partake of the one bread."

The Eucharist commits us to the poor. To receive in truth the Body and Blood of Christ given up for us, we must recognize Christ in the poorest, his brethren.

The Eucharist and the unity of Christians. Before the greatness of the greatness of this mystery St. Augustine exclaims, "O sacrament of devotions! O sign of unity! O bond of charity!" The more painful the experience of the divisions in the Church which break the common participation in the table of the Lord, the more urgent are our prayers to the Lord that the time of complete unity among all who believe in him may return...Ecclesial communities derived from the Reformation and separated from the Catholic Church, "have not preserved the proper reality of the Eucharistic mystery in its fullness, especially because the absence of the sacrament of Holy Orders." It is for this reason that Eucharistic intercommunion with these communities is not possible for the Catholic Church.

United States Catholic Conference, Inc. (1994). Catechism of the Catholic Church. New York, NY: An Image Book, Doubleday, pages 389-392.

EUCCHARISTIC SAINTS

BLESSED IMELDA LAMBERTINI

THE CHILD WHO LONGED TO RECEIVE JESUS



Dominican tradition tells us that Imelda Lambertini was born of a noble family in Bologna, Italy in 1322. Her parents raised her to love her Catholic faith, and through their influence she developed a love for prayer, especially for the Mass. Often she would attend Mass and Compline (Night Prayer of the Divine Office) at a nearby Dominican Church. Her mother also taught Imelda to cook and sew for the poor and cultivated in her child an eagerness to perform the corporal works of mercy. Even so, her mother and father, both of whom were getting on in years, were surprised when Imelda asked permission at the tender age of nine to go to live with the Dominican nuns at a neighboring monastery. As difficult a decision as this was, her parents evidently sensed the depth of their child's desire and entrusted her spiritual formation to the Dominicans at Val di Pietra.

At this distance of centuries and culture it is not easy to determine precisely what little Imelda's status was at the convent. It seems she was well loved by the sisters, who allowed her to wear the Dominican habit, to pray with them, and to follow their way of life to the extent that a little girl would be able to do while still remaining a child. Imelda, we are told, longed (and intensely, it seems) to be allowed to receive Holy Communion with the nuns, but in that day such a thing would have been unheard of for a child her age. Her pleading was again and again gently refused, with the explanation that she would need to wait until she was older and more prepared. For a time Imelda had to be content with this answer, meanwhile learning to chant Office from hearing the nuns in choir and developing her own interior prayer life in simple childlike ways. The saints, whose stories she had learned from her parents and from the nuns, became her "secret companions," and probably had a hand in nurturing the longing she felt to receive Jesus intimately in the Sacrament of the Eucharist. In her private conversations with Jesus, with whom she was developing a deep friendship, we can imagine that she made known often her desire to be allowed to go to Communion. There is no evidence that He put up any opposition to the proposal—but neither did the sisters relent. And so Imelda continued, with the intensity of a child, to get to know Jesus more deeply, and to desire Him all the more.

As spring approached, the sisters, who perhaps thought that they had succeeded in diverting Imelda's "childish fancy" to go to Communion with the grown-ups, were a bit startled when she asked again, shortly before the feast of the Ascension, to receive her First Holy Communion. ("Asked," in fact, is not the word. She begged them insistently, it seems.) When the chaplain was consulted, he agreed with the sisters and responded with no hesitation that Imelda was much too young. On the Vigil of the Ascension Imelda was in her place in the chapel, quietly praying as the sisters received Communion. Then Jesus did a little "insisting" of His own. After Mass, as one of the nuns was clearing the altar, she heard a noise and looked up to the choir to see Imelda, a glowing light shining above her head, with the Sacred Host suspended in the light. The chaplain was called at once, and he understood that Jesus Himself was making his desire known. "Let the little children come to Me and do not stop them." The priest gave Imelda her First Holy Communion.

We can well imagine that the nuns were amazed and thrilled both at the great blessing to their little one, and to their convent. The prioress allowed Imelda to remain for some time in thanksgiving, and then sent for her to come and have her breakfast. Imelda was still kneeling as they had left her, a smile on her face. Yet when called for, Imelda's body was still. She had died of pure joy. Her thanksgiving had been well completed, and she had nothing left to desire.

Blessed Imelda's story is so well entrenched in the collective memory of her Dominican brothers and sisters that it has remained firmly in the Order's history. She continues to offer the witness of a child with mature desires, and a faith unspoiled in its intensity. Imelda understood instinctively what many of us have forgotten: that it is the single-hearted who are blessed and that unless we become like children we cannot enter the Kingdom of Heaven.