

“Give us this day our daily bread” (Matthew 6:11). Jesus taught us to offer this petition to our Father in heaven each day. The term *daily bread* can apply to anything we need to sustain us in our daily service of God: things material, like good health, a safe home, and a secure livelihood; and things spiritual, like courage, faith, perseverance, and patience. And we can be assured that when we ask earnestly and in faith, God will give us precisely what we need in order to serve him in just the way he desires.

Jesus described himself as the Bread of life (John 6:48). And so, in a special way, Jesus himself is the *daily bread* for which we pray in the Lord’s Prayer. Jesus says, “The bread I will give is my flesh, for the life of the world.” (John 6:51) Jesus is the food that strengthens us each day to worship God and serve others in charity. Through these works of faith, which constitute the essential expression of the Christian life, we feed on Jesus the Bread of life and become holy.

Today’s feast of Corpus Christi points us to the principal and preeminent way Jesus comes to us as the Bread of life: namely, in the Holy Eucharist. At every Mass, through the ordained priest who acts as his instrument, Jesus takes bread, gives thanks, breaks the bread, and gives it to his disciples, saying “This is my body, which is for you. Do this in remembrance of me.” In the same way, he takes the cup, gives thanks and says, “This cup is the new covenant in my blood” (see 1 Corinthians 11:24-25). It is Jesus who offers the Mass, just as it is Jesus who is offered in the Mass. By the working of the Holy Spirit, the Mass makes present the unique sacrifice of Jesus on the Cross, the sacrifice whereby Jesus redeems us and gives himself as food for our body and soul, that we might grow more and more to be like him.

St. Thomas Aquinas, in his poem *Adoro te devote*, expresses this truth beautifully:

God, with hidden majesty, lies in presence here,
I, with deep devotion, my true God revere:
Whom this outward shape and form secretly contains,
Christ in his divinity manhood still retains.

All my other senses cannot now perceive,
But my hearing, taught by faith, always will believe:
I accept whatever God the Son has said:
Those who hear the word of God, by the truth are fed.

Blest reminder of the death suffered for mankind,
Sacrament of living bread, health to every mind,
Let my soul approach you, live within your grace,
Let me taste the perfect joys time shall not efface.

The Eucharist is the preeminent sacrament of the Church because it is by the Eucharist, the instantiated Word of God, that the Church is built up and nourished. The Eucharist expresses and perfects our communion with the Lord Jesus and our communion with each other in him. It is the greatest expression of God’s love for us, and the means by which we are established in that divine love which the Scriptures call *caritas*, charity.

May God make us always grateful for the supreme gift of the Holy Eucharist. May he make us yearn to be more closely united to Jesus and to his beloved bride, the Church, through our regular participation in the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass and reception of Holy Communion.

Yours in Christ,

Father Walter

P.S. Corpus Christi marks the last Sunday of the adult choir's participation at the 11:00 a.m. Mass before its summer break.

The importance of music and singing in the liturgy can scarcely be overstated. The Church teaches in the document *On Sacred Music*:

“Liturgical worship is given a more noble form when it is celebrated in song, with the ministers of each degree fulfilling their ministry and the people participating in it. Indeed, through this form, prayer is expressed in a more attractive way, the mystery of the liturgy, with its hierarchical and community nature, is more openly shown, the unity of hearts is more profoundly achieved by the union of voices, minds are more easily raised to heavenly things by the beauty of the sacred rites, and the whole celebration more clearly prefigures that heavenly liturgy which is enacted in the holy city of Jerusalem.”

While it is the duty of all the faithful to participate in the singing of the liturgy according to their ability, the choir has a special role in leading the congregation in song, along with the cantor and psalmist. The choir helps the faithful to lift their hearts to God and be mindful of his presence in our midst. It is a true ministry and service to the Church.

On behalf of the whole parish, I wish to thank the members of our parish choir for their hard work and faithfulness in bringing their gifts to the service of the liturgy. We wish them a restful summer and look forward to their return in the fall.