



THIS WEEK AT THE MADELEINE

Furthering the Reign of God, Where All Are Welcome • June 5–6, 2021

CLASS OF 2021 HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATES

Thank you for sending us the names of your Class of 2021 High School Graduates from The Madeleine community and their post-high-school plans. Congratulations to all and good luck as you go off to college and beyond!

Central Catholic High School

- ▷ **Jack Anctil**, University of Portland
- ▷ **Cecilia Anderson**, University of Colorado, Boulder
- ▷ **Finn Dugan**, Gonzaga University
- ▷ **Gus Gianotti**, Santa Clara
- ▷ **Mordecai Giday**
- ▷ **Aidan Gold**
- ▷ **Ian Golightly**
- ▷ **Cyrus Mehr**, Gonzaga
- ▷ **Gabriel Mehr**, University of Oregon
- ▷ **Elizabeth O’Leary**, University of Arizona
- ▷ **Alex Pillsbury**, Carroll College
- ▷ **Allison Sacamano**, Georgetown
- ▷ **Liam Sack**, University of Oregon
- ▷ **Porter Shea**
- ▷ **Lily Wilson**, Loyola Marymount University

De La Salle North

- ▷ **Grant Pennick**

Grant High School

- ▷ **Zoe Coughlin-Glaser**, Fort Lewis College
- ▷ **Aine Gillen**, Portland Community College
- ▷ **Annelies Quinton**, Harvard College
- ▷ **Marin Biniak**, Falmouth University, UK

LaSalle Prep

- ▷ **Alex Fiedler**, University of Oregon—Clark Honors College

Mt. View High School

- ▷ **Michael Braut**

St. Mary’s Academy

- ▷ **Betsy Robinson**, University of Oregon

MADELEINE PROVISIONS—ENDS TUESDAY

Order by June 8, noon • www.themadeleine.edu/provisions

Another gourmet pop-up for The Madeleine community! A joint fundraiser for our parish and our school, we will be offering the Wagyu Beef, Kurobuta Pork, Gourmet Sausages, Sushi grade Tuna, and New Zealand Ora-King Salmon.

It’s all being done at wholesale cost plus a small donation going back to the school and parish. Plus, we’re offering wine from local

winery, Helioterra, that will be available at pickup. Lastly, we’ll be grilling gourmet hot dogs that day, so bring your appetite!

Important Dates:

- ▷ Orders due Tuesday, June 8 @ noon
- ▷ Pickup will be Friday, June 11, 3–5 pm at the school

Email or text Darryl Fowler, dcfowler@mac.com / 323-854-3333, with questions.

LAST CALL: FATHER & CHILD PHOTOS

Upload photos to www.themadeleine.edu/fathers by Thursday, June 10

We are gathering photos for our annual Father & Child video to run at Masses in June, beginning June 13. This year, we’re making a fresh start. So even if you’ve sent us a photo before, please

send a new one this year. Upload your best father and child(ren) photos to www.themadeleine.edu/fathers

We need your photos no later than Tuesday, June 10.

Inside this week’s bulletin:

- ▷ **Madeleine in Memorial: Dirk Fournier**—we said goodbye to parishioner and former Madeleine School parent Dirk Fournier this weekend. Read about his life on Page 4.
- ▷ **Honorary Chair: Bee DeVita**—our new Madeleine Auction committee has named Bee DeVita as the honorary chair for *A Madeleine Snow Day*, the 2021 Auction. Page 2

The Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ (Corpus Christi)

SOMETHING UNIQUE HAPPENED at the Last Supper and happens whenever we share in the Eucharist. Jesus instituted a new covenant, sealed in his Body and Blood. The covenant between God and us means that we are deeply connected not only to God, but to one another. Our connections, and the commitments they imply, extend to all people everywhere. Participating in the Eucharist may be the most challenging thing we are invited to do.

PRAY FOR OUR FAITHFULLY DEPARTED

Dirk Fournier	Donna Gene White
Lori Taylor	Mary Mackin
Russ Clark	Larry Mason
John DeBenedetti	Barbel Durrett

PRAYER REQUESTS

For those who are ill, or in need of our prayers

Spencer Shearer	Peggy Barnett	Pam Wiggan
Matthew Eusterman		Tom Johnston
Lisa Nice		Hilda Glasgow
Penny Hanselman		Sylvia Manzo
Quenton Czuba		Gloria O’Brien
Kathy Gaitan		

WORSHIP & PRAYER

06/08, Tues. Peggy Barnett
06/09, Weds. Frank Cammarata
06/10, Thurs. Lori Taylor †
06/11, Fri. Dirk Fournier †
06/12, Sat. John DeBenedetti †
06/13, Sun. 8:00 am	.. The Madeleine Community
10:00 am. Herminia Arias †

Calendar This Week

SUNDAY, JUNE 6

8:00 am: Mass—Church

 **IN-PERSON ONLY**

10:00 am: Mass—Church

 **IN-PERSON**  **LIVESTREAM**

TUESDAY, JUNE 8

8:00 am: Mass—Church

9:00 am: Adoration—Church

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 9

3:30 pm: Music Enrichment

5:30 pm: Buildings & Grounds—Zoom

7:00 pm: Choir Rehearsal—Zoom & In-person

THURSDAY, JUNE 10

10:00 am: Funeral Mass, Mary Mackin—Church

2:00 pm: Mass—Church

 **IN-PERSON**  **LIVESTREAM**

FRIDAY, JUNE 11

8:00 am: Mass—Church

2:00 pm: 8th Grade Awards—Church

6:30 pm: 8th Grade Graduation—Church

SATURDAY, JUNE 12

8:00 am: Race for Justice—Field

5:00 pm: Mass—Church

 **IN-PERSON ONLY**

SUNDAY, JUNE 13

8:00 am: Mass—Church

 **IN-PERSON ONLY**


10:00 am: Mass—Church


 **IN-PERSON**  **LIVESTREAM**

CORPUS CHRISTI ADORATION

June 6 is the beautiful feast of the Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ (also known as Corpus Christi). Please join us immediately following the 10:00 am Mass in procession with the Holy Eucharist into the Courtyard for 30 minutes of adoration.

ACCESSING THE MADELEINE IN TIME OF COVID-19

▶  **IN-PERSON**—Pre-registration is no longer required; max attendance 150 people, COVID safety procedures in place.

▶  **LIVESTREAM**—on our YouTube channel every Sunday at 10:00 am, School Masses, and special events:

www.youtube.com/themadeleineparish

▶ **Parish Emails:** To sign up, visit www.themadeleine.edu/email

PARISH LIFE

BEE DEVITA NAMED HONORARY CHAIR OF 2021 AUCTION

The 2021 Auction Committee is pleased to announce that Bee DeVita has been named Honorary Chair of the 2021 Auction, *A Madeleine Snow Day*. The auction will be held November 6.

Bee first came to The Madeleine 28 years ago as a mom helping out in her children's school. She was eventually volunteering so much that the principal hired her as a classroom aide. Since then, Bee has guided over 700 children through first grade. Think of the number of homework packets corrected, shoelaces tied, jackets tracked down, rainy recesses monitored, and emergent readers supported to proficiency. "Watching them realize they can do it 'by myself for myself' is so gratifying," Bee says.

As a teachers' aide, Bee was never the center of attention, but preferred quietly working to keep the class running smoothly. Bee enjoyed first grade outings to the pumpkin patch and Mt. Tabor, "definitely fun, but nerve wracking too, making sure we didn't lose anybody." Bee especially looked forward to the Jogathon and ran



laps with first graders who were getting tired or upset. "If it was meaningful enough to ask the kids to do it, then I should do it with them," Bee recalls.

Bee loves the outdoors, particularly being near water. She especially enjoys outrigger canoeing for its long, technical races. Bee is spending more time on the water these days as

she discerns what she'd like to do next. Throughout all of these changes, Bee's faith life is a constant source of strength. "It is a calming and communal experience Mass provides for me," she says. "I've been in the faith a long time, I love the singing and the righting of wrongs. If you've done something you're sorry for, you've heard and forgiven," Bee adds. Connecting with parish families after Mass has also been life giving. Bee and her husband, Mike, picked up the post-Mass donuts for years. "People stayed for hours," she muses.

To read more about Bee's life and times in The Madeleine community, visit www.themadeleine.edu/honorarychair

SLEEP IN HEAVENLY PEACE— BUILD BEDS FOR KIDS

Help build beds for kids who need them • June 12, 10:00 am–2:00 pm

SHP-OR, Portland Metro invites you to join us for Bunks Across America on Saturday, June 12, at the Portland Shed. SHP's goal is to build over 7,500 beds with up to 15,000 volunteers, and we need your help to make it happen. So save the date and join us for a memorable day of joy and community service.

Lunch and water bottles are provided as are gloves and all protective gear. We look forward to seeing you!

When & Where:

- ▶ Saturday June 12 • 10:00 am - 2:00 pm
- ▶ The Portland Shed, 10609 NE Simpson St., Portland.

COVID-19 Protocol

We'll be adhering to state and local mandates and will be implementing social

distancing, masks, and other PPE to protect you and your loved ones while you serve your community.

Volunteering Requirements

- ▶ Each volunteer is required to fill out an Indemnification Release Form.
- ▶ No child under the age of 12 is allowed to participate in a Build Day.
- ▶ Over-age minors are required to be accompanied by a legal guardian.

To Volunteer:

- ▶ Visit www.shpbeds.org/chapter/or-portland-metro and click "Register"

To Donate:

- ▶ Online—weblink.donorperfect.com/or-portlandmetro
- ▶ Portland Shed—portlandshed.org
- ▶ Sleep In Heavenly Peace—SHPBeds.org

Today as we celebrate the gift of the Body and Blood of Christ let us pray for those who are hungry, malnourished and starving. If there is a family you know who needs assistance, contact Mary Clare O'Brien, so that together we can help.

— Mary Clare O'Brien, 503-309-7639



JOIN OUR NEW CHIME CHOIR

Do you love music? Consider joining our new “Chime Choir” at The Madeleine.

Hand chimes are...

- ▶ Accessible to play. Chimes are set up like a musical keyboard. A basic knowledge in musical rhythm or note reading is helpful, but not required.
- ▶ A safe alternative to singing during COVID. “Chimers” are assigned one or two individual chimes, which are not

shared with one another. Because of this, it is easy to be socially distanced. Masks are mandatory.

- ▶ A great family music ministry—which will bring much joy and beauty to our liturgies!

For more information on rehearsals and liturgies, please contact Maria Manzo, Director of Music at mmanzo@themadeleine.edu

THE MOST HOLY BODY AND BLOOD OF CHRIST

This weekend we celebrate the solemnity of the Body and Blood of Christ. I am just old enough to remember when it was called Corpus Christi, however the relatively new title is much more inclusive—acknowledging both the body AND blood of Christ.

As Catholics, we consider the Eucharist to be the “source and summit of our faith.” In a theological sense, this phrase draws from the Vatican II text *Lumen Gentium* as it says, “taking part in the Eucharistic sacrifice, the source and summit of the Christian life, they offer the divine victim to God and themselves along with him.” This is where our Catholic understanding of the Eucharistic gets a little tricky. While we most often think of the physical act of receiving the bread and the wine at Communion, the *Lumen Gentium* actually refers specifically to taking part in the Eucharistic sacrifice—that is the whole of Mass, not just the consumption of the host. That being said, the act of going to Communion is in itself an integral part of our communal spirituality as Catholics.

The Communion Chant (or song) takes place during one of the four liturgical Processions of the Mass—as the congregation approaches the altar to take Communion. While it may be tempting to look around and see who is at Mass while you are waiting your turn (I know we’ve all done that a time or two), the Communion Procession is suppose to foster a sense of reverence and unity—approaching the altar as a united community rather than isolated individuals. Thus, the music for the Communion Procession should reflect that same unity—with an emphasis on



the body and blood of Christ. From a practical standpoint, the songs should contain short refrains that can be sung from memory. The cantor or choir can sing the verses, so that the congregation can robustly sing the refrain. Such songs as the Taize, “Eat This Bread” or the very familiar “I am the Bread of Life” by Suzanne Toolan are always in the “top ten.”

Many Catholics also take part in Eucharistic Adoration—that is, the act of worship outside of the Mass. The Catechism of the Catholic Church tells us that, “Adoration is the first attitude of man acknowledging that he is a creature before his Creator.” During Adoration, the Eucharistic host is displayed in a monstrance (an ornate object which hold the host) so that everyone can see and pray in the presence of Christ. Some parishes actually have perpetual Adoration, which means you can pray in front of the Eucharistic host anytime, day or night. In order to have perpetual Adoration, however, at least one person must be present at all times so that the Blessed Sacrament is never left alone. As you can imagine, in most parishes this is not practical, so there are usually set hours during the week when anyone can come at any time to pray front of the Blessed Sacrament. For many, this time spent in prayer with Jesus can be very calming and spiritual—a much needed physical and mental respite from the rest of the world.

As we turn the corner toward summer, may we pause and remember the sacrifice of our Lord and the blessing of the Eucharist with this Solemnity—and always.

—Maria Manzo

WEEKLY MASS TIMES

Masses:

Tuesday	8:00 am
Wednesday	8:00 am
Thursday (School Mass)	2:00 pm
Friday	8:00 am
Saturday Vigil	5:00 pm
Sunday	8:00 am & 10:00 am

Notes:

- ▶ Pre-registration for in-person Mass attendance no longer required
- ▶ Livestream 10:00 am Sunday and 2:00 pm Thursday at [youtube.com/themadeleineparish](https://www.youtube.com/themadeleineparish)

Penance . . . By appointment; call Parish Office

PARISH OFFICE

Hours Monday–Friday, 10:00 am–3:00 pm

Phone: 503-281-5777 **Fax:** 503-281-0673

School Office 503-288-9197

PARISH STAFF

Rev. Mike Biewend—Pastor
fathermike@themadeleine.edu ext. 111

Deacon Mike O’Mahoney—Permanent Deacon
deaconmike@themadeleine.edu

Carol Glasgow—School Principal
cglasgow@themadeleine.edu . . 503-288-9197

James Wurzer—Business Manager
jwurzer@themadeleine.edu ext. 118

Darlene Maurer—Pastoral Assistant
dmaurer@themadeleine.edu ext. 125

Therese Fenzl—Director of Spiritual Ministries
tfenzl@themadeleine.edu ext. 116

Maria Manzo—Director of Music
mmanzo@themadeleine.edu ext. 113

Ann Hart—Events Manager
ahart@themadeleine.edu

Nadia Stickney—Bookkeeper
nstickney@themadeleine.edu ext. 119

Mary Prusso—Registration/Special Events
mprusso@themadeleine.edu ext. 112

Janeen Reilly—Parish Administrator
jreilly@themadeleine.edu ext. 110

Terry Silva—Facilities Support
tsilva@themadeleine.edu ext. 117

Rich Hammons—Director of Communications
rhammons@themadeleine.edu ext. 129

SACRAMENTS

Marriages, Funerals, Anointing of the Sick—Fr. Mike ext. 111

Infant Baptism—Darlene Maurer ext. 125

First Reconciliation, First Eucharist—Trisha Mumm ext. 127

RCIA—Christi Bohmbach, rcia@themadeleine.edu

Confirmation—Fr. Mike ext. 111

COUNCILS & CONTACTS

Pastoral Council—Ron Oliver 503-281-9070

Finance Council—Jim Jones 503-284-3301

Buildings & Grounds—Erin Couch . . 503-281-9575

School Advisory—Catherine Glavan, 503-875-4679

Facility Requests—[themadeleine.edu/facilities](https://www.themadeleine.edu/facilities)

Maintenance Requests—James Wurzer
jwurzer@themadeleine.edu ext. 118

Bulletin submissions due 5:00 pm Tuesday

Email to bulletin@themadeleine.edu

FATHER'S DAY REMEMBRANCE ENVELOPES

Father's Day Spiritual remembrance envelopes and cards are available in the vestibule. This is a wonderful way to honor a living or deceased father.

Simply fill out the envelope and drop it in the collection plate anytime between now and Father's Day.

HELP BEAUTIFY OUR CITY ...ONE BLOCK AT A TIME

Now open to the entire state of Oregon

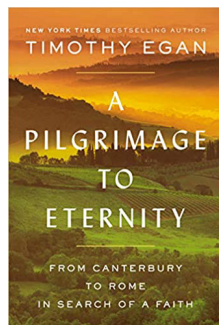
Adopt One Block is a local nonprofit encouraging residents to adopt and care for our environment one block at a time. Participants choose a location and commit to weekly walking the public portion of the block, picking up litter and debris, and properly recycling or disposing of the trash. Anyone, any age, can participate (when and how you do this is your choice). Here's how to become a Block Ambassador:

- ▶ Select a block anywhere state you would like to adopt.
- ▶ Submit the block to the organizer at www.adoptoneblock.org
- ▶ Request collection supplies you may need trash grabber, gloves, trash bag.
- ▶ Begin weekly walks of your adopted block.
- ▶ **Let us know what block you have adopted**, and share your stories and photos with us at bulletin@themadeleine.edu with subject line "Adopt One Block."

Questions: Darlene Maurer, dmaurer@themadeleine.edu

BOOK CLUB NEWS

Hello friends and reading advocates. The book Fr. Mike has selected for everyone to read is *A Pilgrimage to Eternity*, by Timothy Egan. We had hoped to meet in person this month for our discussion, but unfortunately, we will be unable to do so, since the pandemic safety restrictions set out by the Archdiocese still restrict social gatherings at this time. We will reschedule our gathering for a future date. For further information, to join our group, and/or to be added to our email list, please contact our MBC Ministry Coordinator: Gretchen Stevenson, gypsyfrau47@yahoo.com or 503-312-6834.



In Memoriam

THE MADELEINE FAMILY REMEMBERS

DIRK FOURNIER

A Funeral Mass was celebrated for longtime parishioner Dirk Fournier on Saturday, June 5, at The Madeleine.

Dirk Fournier lived his life out loud with extraordinary passion, purpose, love and generosity. He died in Portland, Oregon, at age 50, leaving behind his 17-year-old sons, Parker and Cameron, the center of his universe; parents, Dick and Karen; brother, Ryan; sister, Kendra; sister-in-law, Jenni; nephews, Westly and Cooper; niece, Madison; and countless friends who adored him.

Born fittingly on Christmas Eve, December 24, 1970, Dirk Kermit Fournier had that star sparkle from day one. He grew up in Montesano, Washington, excelling in the classroom and beyond. During summers as a teenager, he worked at his father's insurance agency, where he hatched big dreams of one day leading his own firm and creating a special agency experience.

After graduating from the University of Washington and moving to Portland, Dirk's life blossomed. It didn't take him long to achieve his childhood aims. As the founder and CEO of Fournier Group, he built a premier national insurance agency with offices on both coasts serving diverse people, businesses and events nationwide. Dirk was a smart, bold, inspirational leader—a visionary for good who loved risk management and was steadfastly committed to growth, improvement and making a difference for people and the community. He had a knack for understanding his friends and colleagues, and always made time to encourage and support them.

Dirk and Fournier Group notched many accomplishments. Fournier Group was named one of the most philanthropic small businesses by the Portland Business



Journal multiple times; the agency won Safeco Insurance's Make More Happen Award twice, benefitting nonprofit partners Edwards Center and Community Warehouse; and in 2021, the brokerage was named one of the 100 Best Companies To Work For In Oregon. Dirk received the Portland Business Journal's prestigious 40 Under 40 Award and was a dedicated longtime member of the esteemed Young Presidents' Organization. He used his super power—commanding an audience with his inimitable charm, charisma and wit—to raise millions of dollars for community organizations and his beloved parish home, The Madeleine.

Dirk's crowning achievement: his twin boys. He was a proud, loving father who cherished every moment he spent with his sons and seldom missed an opportunity to keep you apprised of Parker's academic and musical chops and Cameron's athletic prowess.

Dirk enjoyed beautiful things, a good book, a good party, a good laugh, community events, music, theatre, singing, dancing, cooking, fine dining, step aerobics, swimming, sports, travel—and an upturned polo shirt collar, which only he could pull off. Most of all, Dirk loved watching Cameron play basketball, listening to Parker play the piano and spending time with family in Hood Canal on Washington's Olympic Peninsula.

*Please pray for Dirk, his family
and all the faithfully departed from The Madeleine*

PARISH STEWARDSHIP COMMITMENT LETTERS ARE IN THE MAIL

Our Parish Stewardship Letters for the 2021-22 fiscal year are in the mail. If you have not yet received your letter, you will receive it soon.

Since we did not run a Stewardship Campaign last year due to the pandemic, we thought a review of what you might expect would be a good idea.

The feature most folks are drawn to

is the graph in the middle of the page that shows your past 5-years' giving in comparison to parish averages.

This letter, and the graph, show giving for our Parish Offertory, Second Collections and our Capital Repair Fund (used for maintenance and repairs on campus).

This graph does NOT include Old Church Capital Campaign gifts.

Once you have received your letter, if you have questions about the Stewardship Campaign, your past donations, or your upcoming donation, contact James Wurzer at the Parish Office, 503-281-5777 or jwurzer@themadeleine.edu, or Father Mike at fathermike@themadeleine.edu

By The Numbers

1 Giving History. We heard from some people that they didn't always remember how much they had been giving—so when it came time to pledge for the new year, they would have to dig through bank records. These green bars show how much you've given each year, averaged by month for simplicity—in Parish Offertory, Second Collections and Capital Repair gifts—for each of the past 5 years. **These bars do NOT include Old Church Capital Campaign giving or pledges.**

2 Parishioner Average Giving. We also thought it would be helpful to know, for context, the average monthly contribution per contributing parish family over each of the past 5 years.

3 Contact information. We have included what we hope is your current contact information. See an error or a phone or email missing? Just make the correction when you send in your commitment card!

4 Suggested 2021-22 monthly amount. This is an amount for you to consider for your 2021-22 giving. It reflects the greater of your prior year monthly average plus our requested 6% increase, or the parish average. It's just a suggestion...we are grateful for any amount.

5 Your Commitment. Here, we list the commitments for the coming year.

▶ **Combined Monthly Commitment.** The amount here is intended to cover not only your Parish Offertory, the main fund that our parish runs on, but Second Collections and Capital Repair Fund also. **This does NOT include any gifts to our Old Church Project Capital Campaign.**

▶ **Additional Gifts:** If you did not include Capital Repair Fund and Second Collections in the past, please consider including a monthly amount here.

▶ **Total Per Month:** If you included Additional Amounts, please total all the lines above for your total monthly commitment.

6 Method of payment: We are really hoping people will experience the convenience of automatic electronic payments this year. Complete instructions are on the back of your commitment card.



Dear John & Jane,

Thank you for your support of The Madeleine! Every family, every person in the parish benefits from your generosity. Your ongoing support is critical to the ministries and mission of The Madeleine.

As you know, the pandemic has been difficult to navigate. Most of our supporters have been steadfast, but not everyone has been able to support the parish at their previous levels. And, due to the physical, emotional and economic hardships imposed by the pandemic, we did not pursue a Parish Stewardship Campaign last year. Which leads me to ask for your help this year.

With increased costs for 2021—including a planned cost-of-living pay increase for your parish staff who received none last year—I am asking all parishioners to consider a 6% or greater increase over their prior giving amounts. Or, if possible, to increase giving up to our parish average amount, as noted on the Stewardship Commitment Form below. I know I can count on your generosity, and I remain very grateful for your support of our journey.

If you have any questions, please contact me or James Wurzer, our Business Manager, at the Parish Office, 503-281-5777.

Fr. Mike

Fr. Mike Biewend, Pastor



“As our recent Mass attendance shows, people are eager to again congregate in person...to celebrate Mass as a community. It's been joyous to see families at church again!”

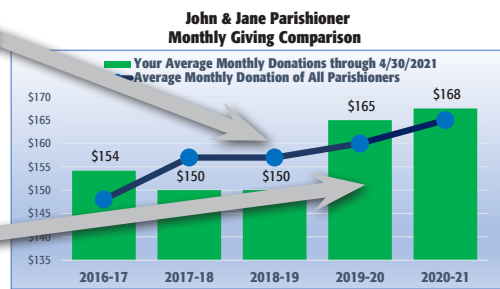


“Our Care for Creation ministry held their annual Earth Day E-Waste Recycling event, which brought people from the parish and neighborhood to responsibly discard their old electronics.”

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Your combined monthly giving by fiscal year for Offertory, Second Collections and Capital Repair

2021-2022 PARISH STEWARDSHIP COMMITMENT

- Please make any corrections below
- For electronic donations, please complete the information on back
- When completed, please return this form in the envelope provided or drop in our weekly collection basket

Email: j&j-parishioner@mail.com
Phone: (503) 123-4567

John & Jane Parishioner
1234 NE Neighborhood St
Portland

Please consider increasing your total combined monthly commitment to our Parish average of: **\$175**

YOUR COMMITMENT	
Please enter your combined monthly commitment, to include Offertory, Capital Repair and Second Collections	\$
OPTIONAL, ADDITIONAL GIFTS:	
Additional Capital Repair Fund—Monthly	\$
Additional Second Collections—Monthly	\$
Total per month (Add together all 3 lines above)	\$

- METHOD OF PAYMENT**
- Auto Debit (EFT)—Preferred
 - Online Bill Pay
 - Debit/Credit Card—Preferred
 - Envelopes

4

5

6

THE FEAST OF THE BODY & BLOOD of *Christ*

(Corpus Christi)

Although we often gather to celebrate the Eucharist, it can sometimes become so familiar that we do not pay enough attention to what we are doing. So in 1264 Pope Urban IV instituted this feast to be celebrated on the Sunday after Trinity Sunday to help us highlight what the eucharist is and what it means for our lives. In many places today's celebration also includes a procession of the consecrated host which is then displayed for public adoration.

The Eucharist & Communion with Christ

The Eucharist is our community ritual that brings together in remembrance and celebration our Christian identity. In word and sacrament, we gather together to express our unity as God's family around the altar/table where Jesus himself becomes present to us through God's Word and then as our consecrated bread and wine, his body and blood.

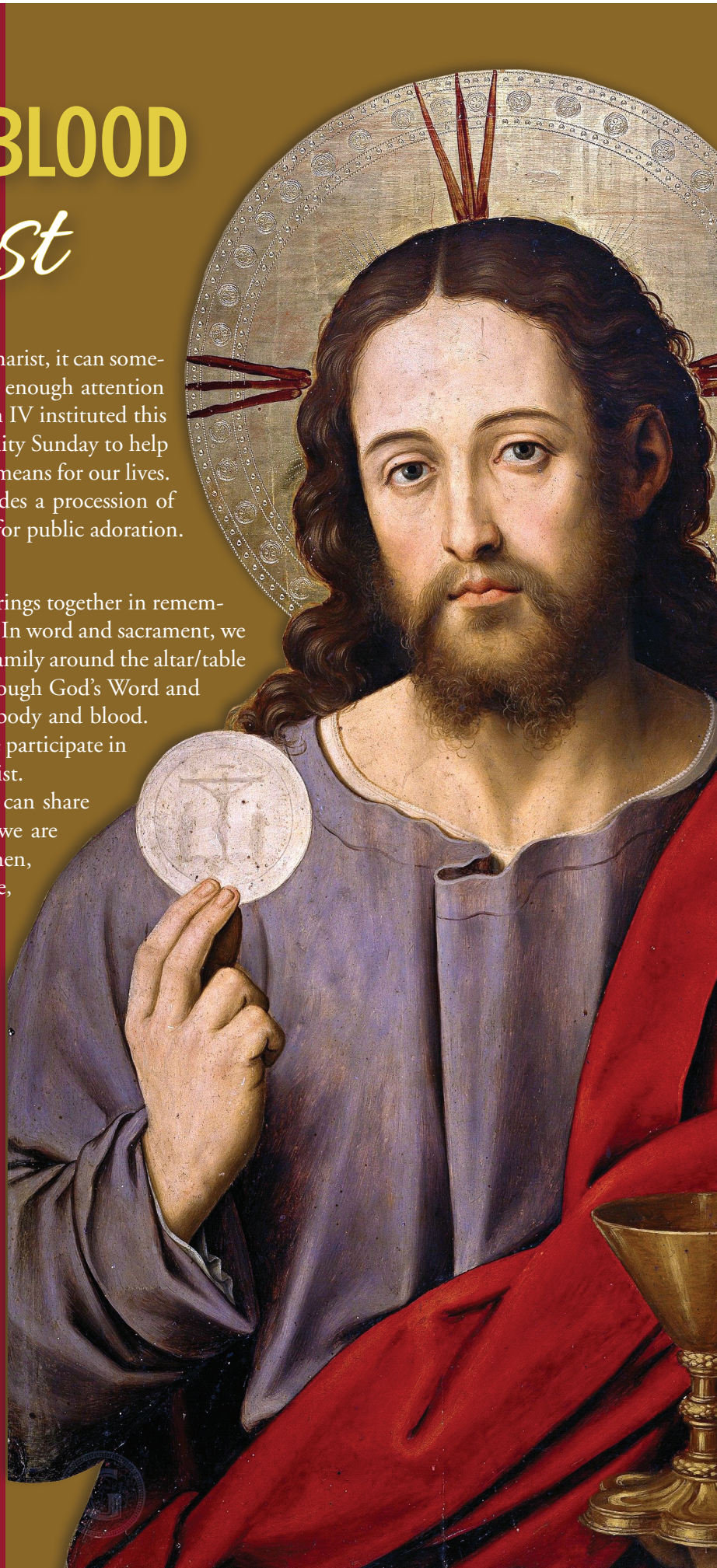
By eating the bread and drinking the wine, we participate in a deep personal fellowship with the risen Christ.

Jesus becomes the bread and wine so we can share his divine life. By sharing in the Eucharist, we are at once joined to God and to one another. Then, strengthened by God's empowering presence, we go forth to share God's presence with all those we will meet throughout the week.

We Are the Body of Christ

St. Paul expresses this new reality by recognizing that the community actually becomes the new earthly Body of Christ (1 Cor 12) to continue Christ's ministry of building God's kingdom community on earth. The image of the body helps recall several important dimensions of our union with the risen Christ.

First, just as our soul gives life to our human body, so Christ gives spiritual life to the Church. Second, like the body, the Church is made up of many different parts, yet all are united and work together for the benefit of the whole person. And finally, the community becomes the eyes and ears, hands and feet through which Christ continues his work of drawing all creation into right relationship with God.



Living a Eucharistic Life

By inviting us into communion with himself, Jesus invites us into a lifetime process of maturing in our relationship with him and with others. Our task is to make sure that we begin, continue and increase this communion. Like Jesus, who gives himself to become our bread, we are called upon to give ourselves so that everyone might live more fully in relation to God and to one another. The Eucharist cannot be something we go to as spectators or do once a week and then forget about. As we celebrate it in a full, conscious and active way, we grow in our relationship with Jesus and with the Christian community.

Celebrating the Eucharist brings about changes in ourselves and then invites us to change our behavior in our household, in our school, in our work and in every other part of our life. As Christians, we not only pray the eucharist but we are called upon to live eucharistic lives. Just as Jesus took the bread, blessed and broke it to share with others, so we ask God to take us, bless us, break us and share us with others so that so that “through him, with him and in him” we may also become sources of God’s new life for the world.

“By faith you know that what seems to be bread is not bread but the body of Christ, although it tastes like bread. You also know that what seems to be wine is not wine but the blood of Christ although tastes like wine. By partaking of the body and blood of Christ, may you be made of the same body and same blood with him.”

—*St. Cyril of Jerusalem*



“Just as Christ appeared before the holy apostles in true flesh, so now he has us see him in the sacred bread. As we see bread and wine with our bodily eyes, let us see and believe firmly that it is his most holy Body and Blood, true and living.”

—*St. Francis of Assisi*

“We do not consume the eucharistic bread and wine as if it were ordinary food and drink. We have been taught that just as Jesus Christ became a human being of flesh and blood by the power of God’s word for our salvation, so also in the prayer of thanksgiving the food that our flesh and blood assimilate for their nourishment becomes the flesh and blood of Jesus.”

—*St. Justin Martyr*

We Give Ourselves as Jesus Gave Himself

“At the Last Supper Jesus gave his body and his blood in the bread and wine, to leave us the memorial of his sacrifice of infinite love. And filled with grace, the disciples had everything necessary for their journey through history, to extend to all the kingdom of God. The gift that Jesus made of himself, by his voluntary death on the cross, will be light and strength for them. And this bread of life has come down to us! The Eucharist enables us to abide in him, for it is the bond which unites us to him, it is the fulfillment of the covenant, the living sign of the love of Christ who humbled and lowered himself in order that we remain united.

“Jesus underlines that he has not come into this world to give something, but to give himself, his life, as nourishment for those who have faith in him. This our communion with the Lord obliges us, his disciples, to imitate him, making our existence, through our behavior, bread broken for others, as the teacher has broken the bread that is truly his flesh. Instead, this means for us generous conduct towards our neighbor thereby demonstrating the attitude of giving life for others. Every time that we participate in the holy Mass and are nourished by the body of Christ, the presence of Jesus and of the Holy Spirit act in us, shaping our hearts, communicating an interior disposition to us that translates into conduct according to the gospel.”

—*Pope Francis*





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