

**STAR OF THE SEA, CANSO
ST. AGNES, LITTLE DOVER
ST. JOSEPH, PORT FELIX
ST. VINCENT DE PAUL**

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THE SOLEMNITY OF THE MOST HOLY BODY AND BLOOD OF CHRIST, JUNE 18, 2023

June 11, 2023 • Body and Blood of Christ • Year A

To Eat or Not to Eat?

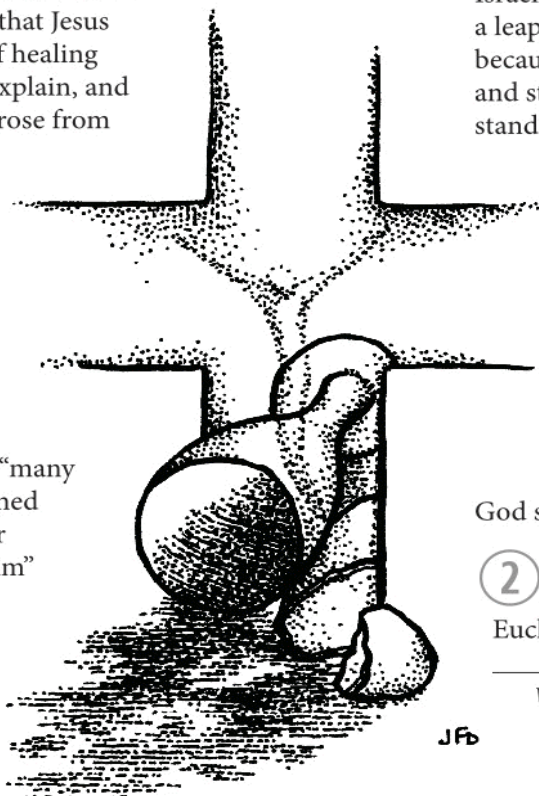
This Week's Readings at Mass

- ▶ Deuteronomy 8:2-3, 14-16 - God's care
- ▶ 1 Corinthians 10:16-17 - The Eucharist vs. pagan sacrifices
- ▶ John 6:51-58 - The living bread

The Gospel reading today picks up partway through a dispute between Jesus and some quarreling Jews. Jesus told them bluntly, "I am the bread of life... whoever eats of this bread will live forever" (6:35).

The Jews, of course, are confused when they imagine literally chewing on someone's flesh and drinking his blood. We can understand this confusion when we as Catholics teach children about this mystery of the Eucharist. In their literal way of understanding, kids are confused too about how bread and wine could possibly be Jesus' body and blood. As adults, though, we can move beyond a need for literal understanding (how can the consecrated host be Jesus' body if it still looks and tastes like bread?) to try to accept a mystery that our minds will never be able to explain. In the same way, we recognize that Jesus worked miracles of healing that science can't explain, and we believe that he rose from the dead even though everything else in our lives tells us that would be impossible.

A few verses after today's passage, the Gospel writer tells us that "many of his disciples turned back and no longer went about with him" (Jn. 6:66) because of this difficult teaching. Others, like Simon Peter, chose to stay



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"The bread that we break, is it not a participation in the body of Christ?"

Sheepish Question:
When and with whom can I share the bread of life this week?

with Jesus. The difference between those who turned away and those who stayed was one of being willing to take a leap beyond rational understanding. The Israelites who were given manna in the desert took a leap of faith and chose to eat it—and they survived because of it. They could have left it on the ground and starved to death because they couldn't understand where it appeared from or what it was. In the same way today, Jesus offers us himself—in the Eucharist, in scripture, and the physical company of believers, "the body of Christ." We can open ourselves to receiving the food he sends us, or we can refuse it because we don't understand it.

Questions of the Week

- 1 How has God fed you during a lean time in the past? What blessings did God send that got you through your desert?
- 2 Is it easy or hard for you to get past trying to understand Jesus' real presence in the Eucharist on a rational level? In what ways?

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WEEKEND MASS TIMES

Saturday, June 17 - 4:30 p.m. - St. Vincent de Paul - ♥*For the Faithful*
- 6:00 p.m. - St. Joseph - †*Howie Cashin*

Sunday, June 18 - 9:30 a.m. - St. Agnes Hall - †*Lauchie and †Brian Munroe*
- 11:00 a.m. - Star of the Sea - †*Ralph Morrow, Jr.*

WEEKDAY MASS TIMES

Thursday, June 15 - 6:00 p.m. - St. Anthony's Chapel, Canso

COMMUNION CALLS - If you know of someone who is unable to get out to Mass and would like to receive Holy Communion, please call the parish office to have their name added to the list.

REFLECTION ON TODAY'S READINGS

HOLY EUCHARIST: THE FOOD OF ETERNAL LIFE

*Jesus offers himself to us as the bread of life. The bread he gives is his flesh. He insists that those who eat his flesh will live forever, and those who do not eat it will not have life in them. This is a strange and mind-torturing teaching. In fact, if we hold on to what is visible, human, and logical, we shall never be able to get in touch with the divine mystery. But we know from the Gospel of St Mark (14:22-24) how, during the Last Supper, the Lord instituted the Eucharist. He took bread, blessed it, and gave it to his disciples saying, "Take, this is my body." Then he took a cup of wine, blessed it, and gave it to them saying, "This is my blood of the new covenant which is shed for many." The Eucharist, therefore, is the covenant of communion Jesus offers us, by which he lives in us and we in him. Today we are called to a deeper appreciation of the Holy Eucharist which is the true body and blood of Christ. The question then becomes: **Do I receive the Holy Communion reverently or just as an ordinary bread?***

We who receive the Body and Blood of Christ partake of the eternal life He has gained for us. At the same time, participating in the Eucharist implies that we need to make an effort to become like Jesus Himself.

SUNDAY COLLECTIONS

Star of the Sea (27)	490.00
Loose	10.00
Winter Fuel (1)	20.00
Cemetery (2)	100.00
Building Fund (14)	507.00
St. Agnes (20)	270.00
Loose	10.00
Cemetery (3)	150.00
Building Fund (5)	90.00
St. Vincent de Paul (6)	80.00
Loose	5.00
Cemetery (2)	100.00
Cemetery Letter Campaign	1,570.00
St. Joseph (15)	170.00
Cemetery (2)	100.00
Donation	200.00
Lobster ticket sales	2,250.00

STAR OF THE SEA NEWS

Property/Finance Committee - will meet Tuesday, June 13 at 6:15 p.m in the Glebe. We desperately need new members!!

Cemetery Clean up - was held in May, special thanks to those who came and helped out.

Ministries Schedule, June 18

Lector - Martha Rhynold

Cleaners - June 11 - 17 - Theresa/Eileen

We are inviting parishioners to serve as Sacristans, Ushers and Altar Servers for Funeral. Please contact Fr. Jonathan for more information.

Summer Fun Ticket Draw - will be held in June. There will be three draws for a Patio set, a Barbecue package and an Outdoor pizza oven. Anyone wishing to buy or sell tickets should

contact Flo Flemming. Draw date: July 1

ST. JOSEPH NEWS

Weekly Bingo - Saturdays at 7:30 p.m.

Card Plays - Tuesday at 7:30 p.m

Parish Picnic will be held Saturday, July 1, more information to follow.

ST. AGNES NEWS

Bingo - Sundays at 7:00 p.m in the parish hall.

Groundskeeper Required - We are seeking someone to mow and maintain the parish cemetery. Please contact the parish office.

Club 100 tickets - congratulations to Donna Levangie-Horne, Daryll Casey, Mary Feltmate, Vernon Parker and Norma Cashin-Keefe. . All proceeds to St. Agnes Parish. Thanks for your support.

ST. VINCENT DE PAUL NEWS

Prize Bingo - will be held in late June, Queensport Fire Hall, date will be announced.

Donations are needed and would be greatly appreciated. Please contact Donna Jackson or Alice Hendsbee for further information.

NOTES

The Worldpriest Annual Global Rosary Relay - for the Sanctification of Priests - organized and coordinated by Worldpriest will be held on June 16, 2023, the Feast of the Sacred Heart of Jesus. Participation is easy - Please join Canada and unite with the rest of the world by praying the Holy Rosary on this day in thanksgiving and for the Sanctification of our beloved priests. For more information, please contact Isabel Gillis (902-870-3831) or www.worldpriest.com

The Mother of Sorrows Pioneer Shrine in The gift shop at the Shrine is now open for the season. The hours for the gift shop are 10:00 am until 4:00 pm, everyday including Sundays and Holidays. The Shrine is always open.