

Gospel Reflection

June 17-18, 2017

Solemnity of the Body & Blood of Christ

Dt. 8:2-3, 14B – 16A

Jn. 6:51-58



Today, on the Solemnity of the Body and Blood of Jesus, we are given a reading from Deuteronomy which speaks of the manna in the desert. Manna, the bread that came down from heaven, is a foretaste of the Eucharistic bread, the Body of Christ on which we all feed.

I like to read the writings of the Rabbis. While in Kansas

a couple of weeks ago, I found a little book called *God's Echo*. Sandy Eisenberg Sasso, in this little treasure of a book, brings together various writings and *midrash* from the Rabbis through the centuries. She then applies the teaching to our own day and personal lives. I'm using this book for prayer while on retreat at our monastery in Pikesville, as I write this.

In the chapter which deals with the manna in the desert, she draws on what the rabbis speculate the manna may have tasted like. She summarizes their teaching in these words:

“The manna had the extraordinary ability to provide what was necessary to sustain the entire community. It gave the nutrition of mother's milk to infants, which was indispensable for their survival. It provided sustenance of bread with the taste of thick cream to young men, who craved a richer diet. It offered the necessary nourishment of soft wafers and sweet honey to the elderly, whose digestive systems required milder fare.”

Can we not say the same thing of the Eucharist? The nourishment we need and crave is there. We meet our Eucharistic Lord there in ways and with graces that are tailor-made to our need and circumstance. The Love of God is so vast and so accommodating in the Precious Body and Blood of Jesus that we each experience Him in a thousand different ways at different times in our lives.

A benefit, now that we are in our new Parish Complex, is that you can stop by anytime during the day or week and easily spend time in prayer before the Tabernacle. He is there waiting to nourish you, young and old and all who are in between.

~ Fr. Victor Scocco, O.S.S.T.

MONDAYS AT THE HISTORIC CHURCH

Please note, Morning Prayer and Morning Mass on Mondays takes place at the Historic Church. There are temporarily NO bathroom facilities available at the Historic Church.

PRAYER VIGIL FOR PERSECUTED CHRISTIANS

SIT St. Lawrence will be holding a Prayer Vigil supporting Persecuted Christians around the world this Friday, June 23rd, from 6:30-8:30pm in the new parish complex.

Let us come together to spend time before the Blessed Sacrament, and pray, sing, and reflect on why it is important to remember our brothers and sisters who embody galvanized faith in the face of evil.

CONGRATULATIONS!

Congratulations to the following students who received the Sacrament of Confirmation on Sunday, June 4th at the Cathedral of Mary Our Queen in Baltimore. We pray that the gifts of the Spirit will continue to strengthen them as they continue their journey of faith.

Katherine Beuchel
Evan Donnelly
Angela Guzman
Reagan Hodges
Elyssa Pesante
Karey Ruchak
Russell Uicker



Miller Bickel
Madison Donnelly
Jeremy Herberich
Summer Hornick
Christian Rico
Alyson Siple
Cheyenne Winkelmeyer

OFFICE VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

We're looking for adult volunteers to staff the reception desk in the office. Volunteers would answer phone calls, assist visitors, and do light office work.

We have three shifts available: morning, afternoon, and evening. Let us know your preference and availability of day and shift. Any help is greatly appreciated.

Contact the Parish Office for more information.

FORTNIGHT FOR FREEDOM BEGINS JUNE 21ST

The United States Conference of Catholic Bishops will sponsor a Fortnight for Freedom, June 21-July 4, 2017 to inspire Catholics across the country to pray and learn about threats to religious liberty and peacefully act to defend this First Freedom of Americans.

The Fortnight's theme "Freedom for Mission" reminds all of us that protecting religious liberty means protecting our right to advance the mission of the Church according to our teachings.

The national opening Mass for the Fortnight will take place on Wednesday, June 21st at 7:00pm at the Basilica in Baltimore. All are invited. For more information, visit www.archbalt.org.

DO YOU LIKE TO WORK OUTDOORS?

The Church Grounds Crew needs volunteers to help cut grass, at both the Historic Church and cemetery and at the new Parish Complex. For further info, please contact Michael Levesque via email michaellrlevesque@yahoo.com or by calling him at 410-262-6751.

NEW DEVOTIONAL CANDLES

Take a look at our new Devotional Candle Stand. The candles are made of real wax with electrified illumination.

After making a donation, you may press the button in front of an unlit candle, and it will remain on for a set time.

The taller candles in the back are available as Memorial Candles. The Memorial Candle includes a small plaque with the name of your loved one mounted in front of the candle. Plaques will remain on display for a year for an annual fee of \$200. There are a limited number of Memorial Candles, so if you would like to reserve one, please call the Parish Office.

DONATION OPPORTUNITIES

We are at almost 98% of the chairs donated! **There is still time if you'd like to donate a chair in memory or in honor of loved ones.**

- Chairs - \$200 each or \$375 for two
- Donations toward restroom renovation for Historic Church
- Audio/Visual equipment for the Church and Education/Meeting Wing

If you are interested in making a donation, please email to office@saintlawrencemartyr.org, call 410-799-1970, or visit our website at <http://saintlawrencemartyr.org/donor>

ANNUAL SIT CONFERENCE – JUNE 27TH-28TH

You are invited to the SIT conference 2017: *The Persecution of Christians: A Response of Mercy and Redemption*

This is sponsored by SIT (Trinitarian International Solidarity) USA and will take place at the Holy Trinity Spiritual Center, 8400 Park Heights Avenue, Baltimore, Maryland 21208 from Tuesday, June 27th at 8:00am until Wednesday, June 28th at 6:00pm. Overnight accommodations are available from 4:00pm on Monday, June 26th and ending after breakfast on Thursday, June 29th.

There is no fee to attend (free will offering). To register, call 410-486-3166 or email sitconference12@gmail.com

HEALTH SCREENING – JUNE 29TH

Do you have high cholesterol or high blood pressure? Have members of your family suffered from these ailments? Do you have a poor diet? If you answer "yes" to any of these questions, you may want to consider being screened through the services of Life Line Screening. Life Line Screening uses ultrasound technology to view the plaque buildup in your carotid arteries, the main arteries that carry blood to the brain. Blockages in these arteries are a leading cause of stroke. We are pleased to host this Life Line Screening event on June 29th at St. Lawrence. Register for a Wellness Package which includes four vascular tests and osteoporosis screening from \$149 (\$139 with our member discount). All five screenings take 60-90 minutes to complete. **In order to register for this event and to receive a \$10 discount off any package priced above \$129, please call 1-888-653-6441 or visit www.lifelinescreening.com/communitycircle or text the word circle to 797979**

WE NEED YOUR HELP!

Thank you to all who have volunteered for our various ministries. While we've had a number of people volunteer for our liturgical ministries, our Hospitality Ministries could use some help. Remember, these ministries help form a visitor's first and last impression of our St. Lawrence community.

Our Greeters, Coffee Ministry, Parking Lot Ministry, and an Information Desk Ministry can all use new volunteers!

Please contact the Parish Office if you are interested. This is a vital piece of evangelization to our neighbors!

Please take this opportunity to serve the Church.

HONORING OUR GRADUATES!

If you or a family member are graduating this year (high school or college degree), please let the Parish Office know at office@saintlawrencemartyr.org or call 410-799-1970.

We'd like to list our honorees in next week's bulletin. We will include their high school or college name, and for college graduates, please provide their degree (e.g. BA, BS, MBA) and their major.

ST. LAWRENCE TRIVIA

Last week's answer: Our new peaceful setting means we have lots of wildlife. We've seen some bold groundhogs, five or six deer, and foxes as we drive in and out. Fortunately, it appears that the geese have left (but please watch your step in the parking lot).

This week's question: This Sunday is June 18, 2017. What important event in St. Lawrence Martyr Parish's history took place last year on June 18th?



This Week In Youth Ministry: No Life Night this week. Next week we will be mini golfing at Monster Mini Golf in Jessup. Permission forms are required and drop off and pick up will be at the location.

If you are heading over after 5:30 Mass and can drive, feel free to carpool, otherwise we will meet you over there from 6:30-8:30pm (and plan on starting around 6:45 for those coming from Mass).

Questions? Email the Youth Minister, AnnaMarie Link @ annamaried.link@gmail.com

We are always looking for adult volunteers to help with Life Teen. Please feel free to email or call me at 410-799-1970, ext 55 if you're interested in helping.

Be sure to follow us on Instagram! @SLMLifeTeen

In Him through her,
AnnaMarie Link