

## MDP of God

In today's gospel Jesus tells us about the most important - the most precious - the most holy gift - that *God has ever* given to the human race - That is the Holy Eucharist.

When we walked into this Church today - we came into the presence of the King of kings, the Lord of lords - the God-man, -the Savior of the world - Jesus Christ [why we must bend the knee...]

When we celebrate the Mass, we have presented before us the saving work of Jesus - we have presented before us **the sacrifice** by which we are saved.

Without His sacrifice, we would have no hope of salvation [We can't save ourselves - we can't pay the penalty for our own sins - we can't earn our own way into heaven - that comes to us by this gift of Jesus]

We're sinners - we need a Savior - **the Savior is Jesus** - the **ordinary way** His saving grace comes to us is by the sacraments - especially the Eucharist.

The first thing I need to point out is that Jesus means what He says in today's gospel;

"If anyone eats this bread he shall live forever, the bread I will give is my flesh for the life of the world"—*He means it*

We heard how people (disciples) quarreled and murmured against Him, "How can He give us His Flesh to eat?"

We see that Jesus didn't say as the people walked away [next week we'll see disciples leave Him] -and refused to remain His disciples, "I don't mean it literally. I'm talking about a symbol. This is a metaphor." **No!!!** He doesn't say any of that.

He does say, "Amen, Amen, I say to you" [that's an oath formula, He's literally saying, "I swear to God"] if you do not eat the flesh of the Son of Man and Drink His Blood, you have no life in you."

“He who feeds on my flesh and drinks my blood has life eternal, and I will raise him up on the last day.”

“For my flesh is true food, my blood is true drink. The one who feeds on my flesh and drinks my blood remains in me and I in them.....the one who feeds on me will have life because of me.”

Jesus means what He says!

We might not understand why He gave us the Eucharist

We might have a difficult time understanding how the grace of salvation comes to us in the Eucharist, but Jesus **clearly** tells us that it does.

[I can't understand how a cell phone works, but I'd be foolish to say, "I don't understand how it works, so I won't use it" - computer - TV works, **but they do work** - their working is not dependent on my understanding - the same is true with the Eucharist, Jesus says, "You need to receive this if you are to be saved" - *we'd be foolish not to believe Him*

Every Tuesday when we have exposition of the Blessed Sacrament—we sing the Tantum Ergo—St Thomas Aquinas' beautiful Eucharistic song---and we pray in that —“*Faith will tell us Christ is present when our human senses fail*”

We can't see His presence (leap of faith), we may not feel His presence - we may not feel the effects of the Eucharist - but our faith can't be dependent on our feelings and our senses.

Jesus says, “Unless you eat my flesh and drink my blood you have no life”  
And when we look at the early Church we see that they came together as a community every Sunday [Jerusalem, every day] for the “Breaking of the Bread” [Mass] - so clearly they saw the Eucharist as a gift that **must** be received often. - *they risked their lives to do this*

The Eucharist is Jesus!!!! He has everything to do with everything in terms of salvation.

When we come into the presence of the Eucharist we come into the presence of Jesus!!! We come into the presence of the **only One** who can save us. We come into the presence of our God

When we receive the Eucharist we have a **Holy Communion** with Jesus!!! [and everyone else]

*The Eucharist is not peripheral to our faith.* The Eucharist is not some little side issue. The Eucharist **is Jesus**. He's the center of everything!

He's the be all and end all of our faith

He's our hope of salvation

He's the one who gives the grace so that we can get to heaven

Coming closer to Him **is the purpose of our existence**

Next week, we'll see how disciples left Him - they rejected Him - they refused to put their faith in Him any longer

*They rejected the Eucharist*

*They rejected His teaching - and in doing so they rejected Him*

Make no mistake - if we as Catholics have the gift of saving faith

We will recognize Jesus truly present in the Eucharist

And if we love Jesus [1st command of faith- necessary for salvation]

there is nothing in the world that will keep us Sunday after Sunday from coming into His presence to receive Him

Faith and Love -that's the way to heaven-*those are our keys to heaven*

Listen again to the Words of Jesus - and know that He means what He says:

"If anyone eats this bread he shall live forever, the bread I will give is my flesh for the life of the world"

“Amen, Amen [Again, He's swearing an oath, "I swear to God"] if you do not eat the flesh of the Son of Man and Drink His Blood, you have no life in you.

“He who feeds on my flesh and drinks my blood has life eternal, and I will raise him up on the last day.”

“For my flesh is true food, my blood is true drink. The one who feeds on my flesh and drinks my blood remains in me and I in them.....the one who feeds on me will have life because of me.”

What more can be said?

I want to point out, that our love of the Lord should be expressed by our actions at Mass

For instance when we come into church we should, as scripture says, “Bend the knee before the Lord” – that is we should genuflect

[If you can – some people’s knees don’t bend very well anymore.....]

Also, the way we receive communion is important

[On the tongue]

[Or in the hand – make a throne- reverence--etc etc]

When we come to receive Jesus we should bow before Him - as the person in front of you is receiving communion – bow in adoration of the Lord

Many people in our parish do

But the guidelines call for everyone to make the same sign of reverence – *that highlights our unity*

My friends – *we have such an incredible gift.....*

**Jesus sharing His very life with us**

Let’s open the eyes of our hearts to see our God before us

And let’s treasure the greatness of this incredible gift