



SAINT THOMAS MORE CATHOLIC PARISH

51 MARKETPLACE IRVINE, CA 92602 · 949-551-8601 · WWW.STMIRVINE.ORG



Saint Thomas More Welcomes All



Welcoming all, we, the Spirit-filled parish of St. Thomas More, value our Roman Catholic faith by celebrating the sacraments, breaking open the Scriptures, and joyfully offering ourselves in service to others. Under the inspiration of our patron saint, we seek to build a caring community that embraces the values he modeled of friendship, integrity and courageous love of God.

Pastor

Parochial Vicar
Parochial Vicar Emeritus
Weekend Assistants

Deacons

Rev. John E. Janze

Rev. Kiet Ta
Rev. William Krekelberg
Rev. Joseph Horn, O Praem
Rev. Joseph Justice
Deacon Tony & Mrs. Mary Patronite
Deacon Stan & Mrs. Fran Necikowski
Deacon Tin & Mrs. UyenLan Nguyen
Deacon Leonard & Mrs. Nancy Sun
Deacon John & Mrs. Michelle Selig

Office Information:

Office: 949-551-8601
After hours emergency: 949-228-2127
Fax: 949-551-5879
Religious Education: 949-551-8029
Youth Ministry: 949-551-8602



Office Hours by Phone:

The parish office is closed to the public.
Phones are answered during the following times:
Monday-Saturday: 9:00am-2:00pm

Jesus said,
"This is my blood
of the covenant,
which will be
shed for many.
Amen, I say to you,
I shall not drink again
the fruit of the vine
until the day
when I drink it
new in the
kingdom of God."

Mark 14:24-25

Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass
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The Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ



JUNE 6, 2021



Daily Mass:
Monday – Saturday
 8:00 AM


Vigil Mass Times
 4:00 PM Vietnamese/English
 6:00 PM English

Sunday Mass Times
 8:00 AM English
 10:00 AM English
 12:00 PM Spanish/English
 5:00 PM English

Morning Prayer: Wed & Fri 7:30am to 7:50am
Adoration: Every Friday 6:00pm to 7:00pm
Saturday Confessions: 1:00pm to 3:00pm

*We will continue to livestream all Masses with the exception of Sunday 8:00am
 For spiritual advisement, please contact the priest to schedule an appointment.*

A Personal note from Fr. Eugene:




Dear Brothers and Sisters of St. Thomas More Parish,

As I prepare to transition into your beautiful community, I want to express my gratitude to God. I am all yours because I am all Christ's. Ready to learn, ready to lead, ready to rock for Jesus. Fr. John Janze has led this parish to be a loving, warm, and inviting place, and his gentle ways offer to me a living challenge to continue to provide for you steadfast, Christ-like leadership. We must continue to be a Pentecost people, on fire with the Holy Spirit, ready to do our part to set the world on fire with the Gospel. Let us remain united in reverent prayer and sacrificial service. Let us have fun and let's continue to build our corner of God's Kingdom!

See you soon! - Fr. Eugene


Fr. John is retiring on July 1st!


Join us on the patio for receptions after all Masses on **June 26th and 27th**
 Cards and gifts can be dropped off at the parish office lobby. If you would like to send a brief video greeting or share photos for the special slideshow, email:
Abraham@stmirvine.org


Wedding Banns
 Kim Than and Serena Dinh

MASS INTENTIONS
Please call the front desk to request a Mass Intention

Monday 6/7	8:00am	Fr Nicholas Thai
Tuesday 6/8	8:00am	†Antonio Natividad
Wednesday 6/9	8:00am	†Peter Thuan Nguyen
Thursday 6/10	8:00am	†Paul Tri Nguyen
Friday 6/11	8:00am	†Elaine Patzwall
Saturday 6/12	8:00am	†Jim Finn
	8:00am	†Piers White
	8:00am	†John Mc Ginley
	8:00am	†Richard Devera
	8:00am	Kevin and Elisa Nguyen
	8:00am	†Mary Nguyen
	8:00am	†Michael Brian Chu
	8:00am	†Christopher Villasenor
	8:00am	Fr. Ed Broom
Saturday 6/12	8:00am	†Gloria Gutierrez
	4:00pm	†Michael Brian Chu
	6:00pm	Fr. Kiet Ta
Sunday 6/13	8:00am	Valentina Bizzarry
	10:00am	Pro Populo
	12:00pm	†Veronica Martinez
	5:00pm	†Ferdinand Manalili

My Dear People,

Today's theme on the Readings: SACRIFICE

Today the Church focuses on the Eucharist. Today's readings remind us how connected to ancient blood sacrifices we are when offering our unbloody sacrifice. The reading from Exodus describes a solemn ritual designed so the Israelites would never forget their covenant with God.

The reading from the Letter to the Hebrews turns us from those ancient animal sacrifices, the first efforts to worship the living God. Our sacrifice is the body and blood of the Son of God. Because of Christ we have a new covenant.

The Gospel from Mark retells the establishment of that covenant, the familiar story of the Last Supper. Juxtaposed with the story of animal sacrifice as it is here, we are challenged to listen with new attention, to remember the great price paid for our salvation. Jesus gave his body and every drop of his blood for us. Copyright © J. S. Paluch Co.

In Christ,
Father John

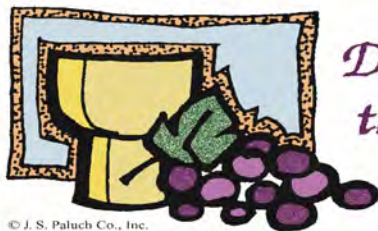
Collections and Expenses

5-24-2021 to 5-30-21

	Collection	E-Giving	Total
Sunday Collection	\$8,959	\$6,469	\$15,428
Believe & Grow	\$4,050	\$656	4,706
BGT- Phase 2	\$400	\$1,090	\$1,490
Building Fund	\$125	\$394	\$519
Other income	\$0	\$1,315	\$1,315

Regular Expenses \$1,192

We appreciate your continued financial support of the parish during these challenging times. If you would like to give, please click on the e-giving link in the top corner of the STM website to set up or update your e-giving. If you have questions, please call the office. All donations to the *Believe & Grow Together Campaign* will be used exclusively to pay for the construction costs to build the new Parish church. Moreover, Building Fund donations can be used to pay for the construction costs to build the new Parish church and for the maintenance and repairs of the existing Parish buildings and property. **Thank you for your generosity!**



*Drink from
the cup of
salvation*

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READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Monday: 2 Cor 1:1-7; Ps 34:2-9; Mt 5:1-12
 Tuesday: 2 Cor 1:18-22; Ps 119:129-133, 135;
 Mt 5:13-16
 Wednesday: 2 Cor 3:4-11; Ps 99:5-9; Mt 5:17-19
 Thursday: 2 Cor 3:15 — 4:1, 3-6; Ps 85:9ab, 10-14;
 Mt 5:20-26
 Friday: Hos 11:1, 3-4, 8c-9; Is 12:2-6;
 Eph 3:8-12, 14-19; Jn 19:31-37
 Saturday: 2 Cor 5:14-21; Ps 103:1-4, 9-12; Lk 2:41-51
 Sunday: Ez 17:22-24; Ps 92:2-3, 13-16;
 2 Cor 5:6-10; Mk 4:26-34

TODAY'S READINGS

First Reading — This is the blood of the covenant that the Lord has made with you (Exodus 24:3-8).

Psalm — I will take the cup of salvation, and call on the name of the Lord (Psalm 116).

Second Reading — Christ is the mediator of a new covenant (Hebrews 9:11-15).

Gospel — This is my body. This is my blood (Mark 14:12-16, 22-26).

The English translation of the Psalm Responses from the Lectionary for Mass © 1969, 1981, 1997, International Commission on English in the Liturgy Corporation. All rights reserved.



PLEASE PRAY FOR HEALING

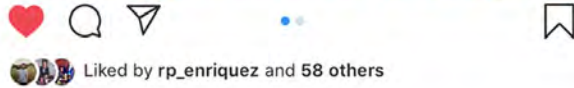


- | | | |
|--------------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|
| Sally Acosta | Alice Green | Ramon Navarro, Jr. |
| Stacey Allen | Baby Johanna Harris | Benjamin Nicanor |
| Richy Altuna | Mike Harvey | Karen Norton |
| Mike Anderson | Shirley Hecker | Nam Van Nguyen |
| Renee Andrade | John Heffernan | Thuy-Lieu Nguyen |
| Judy Anselmo | Robert Henry | Kyle Osbourne |
| Alicia Arrellano | Annette Hills | Agnes Pamintuan |
| Ed Baldyga | Margaret Hills | Den Tony & Mary Patronite |
| Sam Baniqued | Clara Honea | Regina Park |
| Zicky Baniqued | Dominador Hontucan | Norma Jeanne Parrish |
| Jesus Barragan | Sue House | Gabby Paz |
| Blanca Bermudez | Linda Hughes | Charlie Perrea |
| Maria Botello | Angela Jack | Ngocle Phung |
| Michele Bradley | Elsa Jatwani | Zachary Quick |
| Bill Burk | Theresa Johnston | Norma Quyang |
| Lisa Busch | Sharon Jones | Fr. Jim Reis |
| Mary & Joe Bush | Doris Jordan | Paula Reno |
| Baby Zane Cabazon | Quinn Kelly | Lorraine Reyes |
| Linda Carter | Jim Kendall | Ponciano Reyes |
| Ellen Chang | Houman Khaghani | Robert Arnold Rull |
| Cyrus Charna | Jett Knight | Sheila Russo |
| Marietta Charbonneau | Ty Vivian Knisely | Terry Rute |
| Hui-Mei Chen | Elizabeth Kulas | Anita Ruwaldt |
| Clara Connor | Richard Kulas | Jackson & Gerri |
| Alexandra Conti | Deborah Kurilchyk | Scharff |
| Petra Cordova | Larry Lathrum | Michelle Suh |
| Jim Danaher | Damian Ledesma | Tara Summers |
| Mark Daniel | Todd Leeds | Liz Thomas |
| Rick Denham | Jack Light | Baby Catherine Tseng |
| Diana & Liberato DeVeyra | Minerva Lopez | Gail Tierney |
| Larry Doan | Aida Lopez-Tan | Maria To |
| Chela Echenique | Gloria MacCormack | Xuan Tran |
| Linda Emanuel | Myrna Malazarte | Denise Trujillo |
| Meynard Encarnacion | Kristin Mann | Jack Troung |
| Thomas Erhard | Mercedes Mantilla | Kimberly Truong |
| Richard Erhard | Cherry Marinas | Baby Catherine Tseng |
| Jacob Espinoza | Cavan McGaffney | David Valentine |
| Howard Frankel, MD | Kathleen McKinley | Daniel Villareal |
| John Frisch | Anne McNally | Jim Vessey |
| Cynthia Fox | Connie Mellott | Hanh Vu |
| Claudia Fuentes | Durvalina Menezes | Alicia Walters |
| Mike Garibay | Stephanie Mispagel | John Weber |
| Lillian Gibson | Elena Monico | Bill Westlund |
| Jose Gonzales, Jr. | Linda Moore | Michele Wills |
| Marisela Gonzalez | Agnes Motley | Mike Winchester |
| Lois Gorman | Marie Moya | Jim Wood |
| | Susan Navarrete | Linda Yipp |

Please call the office when it is time to remove a name.



stmirvineym.org

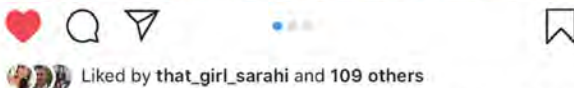


Liked by rp_enriquez and 58 others

Life Teen Bible Studies will continue to meet on Mondays at 7pm. If you would like to attend the bible studies, please go to www.stmirvine.org/live and click on bible study to join.

Thank You to the youth ministry core team and Confirmation Catechists for all your hard work during this pandemic year.

Virtual Live Nights will be on break for the time being. We hope to be back in person soon.



Liked by that_girl_sarahi and 109 others

Confirmation Masses will take place in the month of June.

Sunday, June 6 at 7pm

- Group 1: Tom & Michelle Tassinari's Class
- Group 2: Ken Rute's Class
- Group 3: Lex Coliflores' Class
- Group 4: Edgar Ariza's Class

Saturday, June 12 at 7:30pm

- Group 5: Pam & Bernie Ocampo's Class
- Group 6: Catherine Spear's Class
- Group 7: Anthony & Lisa's Class
- Group 8: Gerry Oridiano's Class

Sunday, June 13 at 7pm

- Group 9: Eric Rodriguez's Class
- Group 10: Hernan Wences' Class
- Group 11: Adam Montano's Class
- Group 12: Hanh Nguyen's Class

R.E.P. CORNER



We want to wish all of our families a fun, adventurous and faith-filled summer!



SUMMER VBS NEWS!!!

ROCKY RAILWAY Jesus' Power Pulls Us Through!!



is scheduled for the week of
July 26—30, 2021!!

Lawrence Elk and all the rest of the VBS Bible Buddies are so excited to announce that registration will be open very soon! Please stay tuned for more information. Also, we really need some creative adults who can help us transform our parish into a giant train station! If you would like to volunteer, please contact the REP Office at (949) 551-8029.



The Library Corner

Solemnity of The Most Holy Body & Blood of Christ Corpus Christi

The St. Thomas More Parish Library staff would like to wish all our parishioners a Most Holy Body & Blood of Christ Sunday. The Library will be closed until further notice.

Today we celebrate the sacrament of the Eucharistic solemnity. This is the Church's official act of homage and gratitude to Christ which represents the Church's greatest treasure. Jesus gave this sacrament to serve His Church as an unending remembrance of His passion. As Catholics, we know how excellent this sacrament is in which Christ the true God has given Himself to us as our heavenly nourishment. Today is also the feast of St. Norbert, the founder of the Norbertine Order, which is celebrating its 900-year anniversary.

Eucharistic Adoration

EVERY FRIDAY
NEW TIME STARTING IN JUNE
6:00PM TO 7:00PM
NO LIVESTREAM

James
Pearls for Wise Living

JEFF CAVINS and SARAH CHRISTMYER

NEW SUMMER BIBLE STUDY!
James: Pearls for Wise Living

James is one of the most practical books of the Bible. Its teachings speak loudly to those who feel torn between the competing demands of this world and their faith.

This study is an 11-week video study program offering "pearls for wise living" by applying the wisdom of James to our current day. For anyone who has struggled to live a truly Christian life, James offers a wealth of practical solutions for handling and even sanctifying everyday circumstances.

St. Thomas More will begin a brand new Saturday Bible Study on **June 5th at 9:00 AM**

Participants will view a video during the week and meet via Zoom every Saturday for a lively group discussion and fellowship.

To register, contact **Deacon Tony** at tpat7747@gmail.com

St. Joseph
THE RIGHT MAN FOR NOW

DIOCESE OF ORANGE MEN'S RETREAT
Saturday, June 19, 2021

Register now at: tinyurl.com/omensretreat

Father's Day
Novena
Cards
Now Available
In the STM
Parish Lobby
Mon-Sat
9am to 2pm

YOU ARE INVITED!

WHAT: THANKSGIVING MASS & BARRIO FIESTA with BISHOP KEVIN VANN

WHY: CELEBRATE 500 YEARS OF CHRISTIANITY IN THE PHILIPPINES

WHEN: JUNE 26, 2021, 10 AM

WHERE: CHRIST CATHEDRAL

HOW: PRE-REGISTRATION IS HIGHLY RECOMMENDED. TICKET IS FREE.

VISIT: FACEBOOK/DOSJFM & CLICK THE LINK TO EVENTBRITE

TICKET, OR SCAN QR CODE BELOW —

(Barrio Fiesta at St. Pius V Church in Buena Park immediately after the Mass. Event is hosted by San Jose Filipino Ministry, a part of Ethnic Ministries of the Diocese of Orange.)

The Blessed Sacrament Chapel
open for individual, private prayer

Monday-Friday
7:00am to 5:00pm

Saturday & Sunday
7:00am to 6:00pm



St. Thomas More Catholic Church would like to recognize and congratulate our graduates!

Jordyn Allam Westpark Elementary	Dana O. Lansigan Stanford University, MS Mechanical Engineering
Alvi Timothy Gutierrez Apolar UC Irvine	Grace Lin Fairmont Private School
Dawson Bartelt Beckman High School	Wyatt Lin Fairmont Private School
Matthew Beck Beckman High School	Jenny "Bunny" Lozano Beckman High School
Jonathan Bergler Northwood High School	Hope Patrice Mallawong New York University, Education
Daniel Bernabe La Verne University	Kyle May Texas Christian University, MS Business Analytics
Kaela Birozy Northwood High School	Sean Monico Tustin High School
Cameron Blew Beckman High School	Ashley Ngo UCLA, BA Psychology
Robert Bridenbecker Santiago Canyon College, AA Business Administration	Micah Nguyen College Park Elementary
Ashley Bridenbecker Orange Lutheran	Iris Nguyen Venado Middle School
Katie Bridenbecker Orange Lutheran	Katelynn Nguyen UCLA
Bradford Bridenbecker Fairmont North Tustin	Nicholas Nugraha Beckman High School
Amy Busch Cal State Fullerton, BA Theater	Megan Ocampo Northwood High School
Gabriel Antonio Cabrera Northwood High School	Maria Pantoja Gastelum Portola High School
Jasmine Cabrera Irvine High School	Samantha Ramirez Pioneer Middle School
Karina Carrillo-Kashani Northwood High School	Maximus Ramirez Tustin Ranch Elementary
Tanya Catiller Northwood High School	Alyce Reynaud Foothill High School
Oksana Catiller Sierra Vista Middle School	Nicholas Rieth Servite High School
LJ Cervantes Peters Canyon Elementary	Katelyn Rieth Foothill High School
Nicholas Chung Beckman High School	Aline Rosa Santiago Canyon College, AS Physics
Justin Cortez Stonegate Elementary	Zachary Selig St. Gregory the Great Seminary, BA Philosophy
Logan Dalke Beckman High School	Samuel Sexton Beckman High School
Dominik Durdovic Beckman High School	Brianna Sicat Northwood High School
Madison Empalmado Portola High School	Abby Torrence Chapman University
Avery Empalmado Woodbury Elementary	Dariella Torres UCSD, BS Psychology
Ryan Garbalosa Orchard Hills	Nicole Torres Northwood High School
Clara Greaney UC Hastings College of Law, JD with Honors	Alyssa Paige Villanueva Cabar Portola High School
Maya Gorczyca Beckman High School	Joseph Anthony Villanueva Vasco Fordham University, Business Economics
Sydney Hastert La Purisima Catholic School	Michaela Wagner UC Irvine
Abigail Hawley-Browder CSU Fullerton, BA History	Alyssa Walters Mater Dei High School
Ashlyn Hoang Northwood High School	MaryWong Portola High School
Drew Hoang Sierra Vista Middle School	Matthew Wong Portola High School
Trang Hoang West Coast University RN, BSN	Gavin Yonemura Pioneer Middle School
Mika Villanueva-Cabar Kelly , University of San Francisco, MA Urban Education & Social Justice	Madeleine Zaragoza Cal Poly San Luis Obispo, BS Mechanical Engineering
Kenneth O. Lansigan College Park Elementary	



Knights of Columbus



Council#13111

Join us for the

California Pizza Kitchen Fundraiser

Dine in or take-out

All day on

Monday, June 7th &

Tuesday, June 8th

Flyers can be printed from the news page of the STM website. Present the flyer to your server and CPK will donate 20% of your food and beverage purchases to the Knights to help support those with special needs.

Young Ladies Institute



The Young Ladies Grand Institute's Annual Baby Shower will be held the weekend of **Saturday and Sunday, June 12th and 13th.**

The ladies from YLI Holy Angels #247 will be outside of the Church after all of the Masses to collect baby items for Casa Teresa in Orange.

Your donated baby items (new and gently used), diapers, and/or monetary contributions will be much appreciated.




saint snippets

Rush to the wounds of Jesus and gain strength from them.

St. István Sándor
Hungarian Salesian who was martyred in 1953 under the communist dictatorship for teaching the faith to young people.

June 8

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SAINTS AND SPECIAL OBSERVANCES

- Sunday: The Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ
- Monday: Tenth Week in Ordinary Time
- Wednesday: St. Ephrem
- Friday: The Most Sacred Heart of Jesus
- Saturday: Immaculate Heart of the Blessed Virgin Mary

Ways to Give to STM:



- Secure e-giving on our website: www.stmirvine.org



- In basket after Mass



- Mail your check or drop it off in our parish lobby



- GivePlus app on Smartphone (Vanco)



- Donate stock, life insurance or retirement plans



- Employer Matching Gifts

- Amazon will donate 0.5% of the eligible purchases to STM!

<https://smile.amazon.com/ch/33-0711481>

Thank you for your continued support!

keep the summer of love going forever
attend a Marriage Encounter Experience



July 23-25, 2021

ocwwme.org

Questions? Call (714) 873-5136

PRAYER FOR GRADUATES

Heavenly Father,
 Surround those who are graduating with
 your grace.
 Bless them with hope so that they move into
 the future with eager and open hearts.
 Help them to put the knowledge, skills, and
 insights gained through their education to
 use for the good of all humankind.
 Inspire them to believe in the goodness of
 life even when faced with challenges and
 difficulties.
 As they commence with their lives, may they
 grow ever more grateful and wise.
 All of this we ask in the name of Jesus, your
 beloved Son. Amen.



Sadlier
 www.WeRelieveandShare.com

FEAST OF FAITH The Corpus Christi Procession



In the thirteenth century, a Belgian nun by the name of Juliana had a vision: she saw the full moon so bright and radiant except for one dark spot. The meaning of this vision was revealed to her: the moon was the Church's liturgical year, the dark spot a missing feast in honor of the Blessed Sacrament. Today's feast of Corpus Christi—the Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ—grew from Juliana's vision.

On this feast, many parishes observe the traditional Corpus Christi procession, giving honor to the Eucharist by carrying this greatest treasure out of the safety of our churches and into our streets. At the end of every Mass we are not just let out, we are sent forth, strengthened by the Eucharist, to be the Body of Christ in the world. The Corpus Christi procession is the dismissal writ large! We take Jesus with us, not only in our hearts, but carried in our midst and exposed in a monstrance. It is a public profession of faith and a blessing of the world. Jesus walks with us on these streets that we walk day after day, among those who know him but yearn to know him better, and among those who do not know him. The Eucharist is a mystery to be believed, to be celebrated—and to be lived.
 —Corinna Laughlin, Copyright © J. S. Paluch Co.



"He will turn the hearts of the fathers to their children, and the hearts of the children to their fathers."

Malachi 4:6



For inquiries please contact the following person below or scan the QR code to fill out our participation form.
 Bong Macatula: (714) 915-0915
 Mia Macatula: (323) 868-7135



a Roman Catholic Community, cordially invites you to a

CHRISTIAN LIFE PROGRAM

Open to married couples, single men and women. Talks are held every Tuesdays & Thursdays at 7:30 PM PST.

Zoom Meeting ID: 833 7154 9632
 Password: Malachi46

"with a Father's Heart"

From Pope Francis' Apostolic Letter dedicating the Year 2021 to St. Joseph.

CLP will be ongoing from May 21- June 17, 2021

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WWW.MORETHANSCHOOL.ORG - 1311 SE SYCAMORE AVENUE TUSTIN, CA 92780

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WHY IS IT?

ONE PARISH

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June 6, 2021

The cup of salvation
I will take up, and I will call
upon the name of the Lord.

Psalm 116:13

JESUS' SELF-GIFT

Today's solemnity celebrates Jesus' self-gift to us in the Eucharist, the Living Bread that nourishes us, the perpetual Sacrifice that redeems us, the Real Presence that comforts us on our pilgrimage and challenges us to self-sacrificing love. As in our own Liturgy of the Word, Moses in Exodus solemnly proclaims God's word to the assembled people, who solemnly affirm their acceptance of that word and pledge obedient fulfillment. Then, in a ritual reminiscent of our own liturgy, Moses seals the people's spoken assent by sprinkling the assembly with sacrificial blood. The Letter to the Hebrews portrays Christ as our High Priest, entering the Holy of Holies with his own Blood to seal the New Covenant that frees its participants from death. This Sacrifice Jesus instituted sacramentally at the Last Supper and offered on the altar of the cross, the Sacrifice and Supper of which we partake at every Eucharist.

JESUS' SACRIFICE AND OURS

In presenting the still-familiar four-fold "Shape of the Eucharist"—Jesus takes / blesses / breaks / gives (Mark 14:22)—Mark omits Matthew's specification of purpose "for the forgiveness of sins," and Luke's "for the remembrance of me." But Jesus does recall the covenant, Israel's liberation from Egypt's slavery. And could the disciples—or we—fail to recall that, in Mark's earliest verses, Jesus sits at table "with tax collectors and those known as sinners" (2:15)? Mark also emphasizes the Eucharist as our participation in Jesus' passion and pledge of our share in his future glory. Jesus had earlier referred to his disciples' suffering as "drinking from the cup he would drink" (10:38–39). Soon he would beg his Abba to "take this cup away" (14:36). But while sharing the Eucharistic cup, Jesus promises a day when he would "drink it new" (14:25): the cup of suffering and sorrow is not the last cup he—or we—will drink, the cup of the Garden of Agony will be transformed into the cup of the Kingdom of God.

WORSHIPING AND SERVING

Through both scripture and tradition, Jesus' Eucharistic self-giving challenges us who partake so frequently of the Eucharist (or hope to do so again once the pandemic is past) to become a community of self-sacrificing love that both worships Christ's presence in the Blessed Sacrament and serves Christ's presence in others. In his Apostolic Exhortation, *The Joy of the Gospel* (*Evangelii Gaudium*), Pope Francis praises the presence, in so many communities, of groups devoted to prayer and intercession, prayerful reading of God's Word, and perpetual adoration of the Eucharist. But then Francis repeats Saint John Paul II's warning that such personal devotion must never become a privatized, individualistic spirituality that forgets the demands of charity or the implications of Jesus' incarnation (*EG*, 262). As we receive Jesus' body sacramentally in the Eucharist, so we should touch Jesus' flesh compassionately in the suffering flesh of others (*EG* 270).

TODAY'S READINGS

Exodus 24:3–8
Psalm 116:12–13, 15–18
Hebrews 9:11–15
Mark 14:12–16, 22–26

The Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ