ARCHDIOCESE OF NEW YORK
YOUTH FAITH FORMATION
Catechetical

Family: A Community of Life and Love

June 2021

Special points of interest:

- Year of St. Joseph
- Year of the Family
- June 6: Corpus Christi
- June 11: The Most Sacred Heart of Jesus
- June 12: The Immaculate Heart of Mary
- June 20—Father's Day

The Eucharistic Miracle of Buenos Aires:

Video for all ages

Eucharist Miracle of Buenos Aires

For the family:

Celebrating the Eucharist in Community

The month of June

February isn't the only month when we remember, in a special way, those who love us!

The month of June is brimming with the love poured out to us by our God of Mercy!

Jesus—love given in the Eucharist

Mary, our Mother-love bestowed upon us through her Immaculate Heart.

Jesus—the ultimate gift of sacrificial love—offered to us through His Sacred Heart.

Dads—Father's Day reminds us of the gift of God's love that our Fathers are to us.

The Feast of Corpus Christi

Corpus Christi. Do you know what these Latin words mean?

If you said the "Body of Christ," you are correct!

Corpus Christi, celebrated on Sunday, June 6, is also known as the Feast of the Body and Blood Of Christ.

The Feast is meant to highlight and celebrate one of the central beliefs of our Catholic faith: that Jesus is truly present, body, blood, soul, and divinity, in the sacred host.

At the Last Supper, Jesus gave his apostles, and those who follow after, (our priests) the power to say the words "This is my body. This is my blood," during the Consecration of the bread and the wine at Mass. When these words are spoken by our priest, Jesus promises to become present in the bread and wine. These elements are changed and become the body and blood of Jesus which he gives as nourishment for our life in Him.

Corpus Christi: The Body and Blood of Christ

"That in this sacrament are the true Body of Christ and his true Blood is something that 'cannot be apprehended by the senses,' says St. Thomas (Aquinas), 'but only by faith, which relies on divine authority.' For this reason, in a commentary on Luke 22:19 ('This is my body which is given for you'), St. Cyril (of Alexandria) says: 'Do not doubt whether this is true, but rather receive the words of the Savior in faith, for since he is the truth, he cannot lie.' — Catechism of the Catholic Church, 1381

Indeed, the Church tells us that the Eucharist is the "**Source and Summit**" of our faith. What does this mean?

The Eucharist is **the culmination** of God's saving action in Jesus and **the center** of our worship with Him . Like the rays of the sun, from the power and life of the Eucharist , emanates all we do, and receive, as His disciples.

Read: The Source and Summit of Christian Life

We believe that in the Eucharist Christ is present 'body and blood, soul and divinity...truly, really and substantially'. By the consecration of bread and wine, there takes place a change of the whole substance of the bread into the substance of Christ's body and of the substance of the wine into the substance of his blood. This change is called 'transubstantiation'. (CCC 1373-1376) At every Eucharist Christ offers himself for our nourishment and strength to unite us with Him and lead us to God in the power of the Holy Spirit.

A recent poll has sadly shown that belief in the real presence of Jesus in the Eucharist is declining among Catholic Christians.

June 20—Father's Day

In this year of St. Joseph, Father's Day is a perfect time to reflect upon the great characteristics of fatherhood our holy and revered St. Joseph gave to us as an example: extraordinary love; a man who worked hard for his family; a faithful witness to the God he loved; an example to his son of the faith he embraced; a man of courage, perseverance and trust in God. We know all of these things about Joseph because the Scriptures reveal them.

How important is the witness of a father's love and faith! One Saturday morning when I was about 5 years old, my dad took me with him to St. Anthony's Church in Butler, New Jersey. There we celebrated the Mass and because it was Saturday, the day of Our Lady, we stayed for the Novena to the Immaculate Conception.

I stood next to my dad as he prayed the words of the Magnificat—the beautiful prayer of Mary spoken to Elizabeth at the Visitation. I was struck by his tone of voice and looked up at him. I recognized this gentle voice. This was the tone he used when he spoke to his own beloved mother . He was speaking to the Blessed Mother in the same way. He was speaking to her with all tenderness as if she were a real person. The dad that I loved and trusted believed Mary was real and was listening. At that moment, because he believed it, I believed it too. And my faith sparked into life.

Thank you to all the Dads who hand on the gift of faith by their example and the way they live their lives.

Editor

June 11—The Most Sacred Heart of Jesus

From 1673 to 1675 at the Visitation convent of Paray-le-Monial in France, St. Margaret Mary Alacoque received a series of four revelations from Christ about his heart. It was here that devotion reached its enduring form: personal consecration to the Sacred Heart, the observance of an hour of prayer on Thursday night between 11 o'clock and midnight as a way of sharing in Christ's suffering in Gethsemane, and the reception of Communion on the first Friday of the month as reparation for the indignities inflicted upon the sacrament by those indifferent and ungrateful. This latter revelation would evolve into a belief that salvation was assured to those who received.

Read what Jesus told St. Margaret Mary.

The Twelve Promises of Jesus to St. Margaret Mary

Watch the videos!

It's Time to Bring Back Devotion to the Sacred Heart - America Magazine

Color Pages - Sacred Heart of Jesus

Novena to the Sacred Heart of Jesus (pray 9 consecutive days before the feast on June 11)

Song: Heart of Jesus—a good old fashioned song for young and old alike!

The Year of the Family

On March 19, 2021, the Church celebrated the fifth anniversary of the publication of Pope Francis's apostolic exhortation *Amoris Laetitia,* on the beauty and joy of love in the family. On this same day, Pope Francis launched the year "Amoris Laetitia Family," which will conclude on June 26, 2022, during the 10th Meeting of Families in Rome with the Holy Father.

The Year of the Family

Pope Francis announced the Year of the Family during his Angelus Message on the Feast of the Holy Family on December 27, 2020. He ended his address invoking the Blessed Mother, "May the Virgin Mary grant that families throughout the world be increasingly fascinated by the evangelical ideal of the Holy Family, so as to become a leaven of [a] new humanity and of a genuine and universal solidarity."

> "Holy Family of Nazareth, make us once more mindful of the sacredness and inviolability of the family and its beauty in God's plan." (Amoris Laetitia, 325)

Created by the Catechetical Office Family Catechesis Advisory Committee

Members of the Committee:
Sr. Joan Curtin, C.N.D.
Sr. Zelide Ceccagno, MSCS
Sr. Mary Crucifix Pandullo, CSJB
Mrs. Margaret Hoblin
Mrs. Janan Lane
Sr. Nancy Elizabeth Doran, SSC

Contact and address:

Sr. Nancy Elizabeth Doran, S.S.C., Editor

Director, Family Catechesis

Catechetical Office

1011 First Avenue

New York, New York 10022

Phone: 212-371-1000, X 2867

E mail:
nancy.doran@archny.org

Feast Days and Saints We Honor During the Month of May—for information on the lives of the Saints go to:
https://www.franciscanmedia.org/saint-of-the-day or

https://www.catholic.org/saints/

Video for Adults: **The Blood of Christ: The Eucharistic Miracle of Buenos Aires.**
Personal and scientific testimony 34 minutes

The Blood of Christ: The Eucharistic Miracle of Buenos Aires

June 12—The Immaculate Heart of Mary

"The Immaculate Heart of Mary signifies, first of all, the great purity and love of the heart of the Blessed Virgin Mary for God. This purity is manifested in her "Yes" to the Father at the Incarnation, her love for, and cooperation with, the Incarnate Son in His redemptive mission, and her docility to the Holy Spirit, enabling her to remain free of the stain of personal sin throughout her life. Mary's Immaculate Heart, therefore, points us to her profound interior life, where she experienced both joys and sorrows, yet remained faithful, as we, too, are called to do. This year, we celebrate the Memorial of the Immaculate Heart of Mary on June 12." *EWTN*

"In the end, my Immaculate Heart will triumph." Mary to the children of Fatima.

The Immaculate Heart of Mary

Immaculate Heart of Mary Coloring Pages

Song: Immaculate Mary

A Prayer for Father's Day

God, our Father
Bless these men,
that they may find strength as fathers.
Let the example of their faith and love shine forth.
Grant that we, their sons and daughters,
may honor them always with a spirit of profound respect.

- Author Unknown