

Church of Saint Mel

2615 154th St., Flushing, NY 11354

(718) 886-0201 - Fax: (718) 886-0882

www.stmels-queens.org



Sunday, May 26, 2024

PASTORAL STAFF

Rev. Joseph G. Fonti, S.T.L., Pastor
Rev. Italo Barozzi, In Residence
Msgr. Kevin B. Noone, In Residence
Deacon Joseph A. Freda

SCHEDULE OF MASSES

Saturday - 9:00 A.M., 5:00 P.M. (Vigil)
Sunday - 7:30 A.M., 9:00 A.M. (Italian),
10:30 A.M., 12:00 P.M.

WEEKDAY MASSES

September - June

Monday - Friday: 7:00 A.M., 9:00 A.M.

July - Labor Day

Monday - Friday: 8:00 A.M.

CONFESSION

Saturday 11:00 - 12:00 P.M.
and by appointment at the Rectory.

ST. MEL'S CATHOLIC ACADEMY

154-24 26th Ave., Flushing, NY 11354
(718) 539-8211 Fax (718) 539-6563
www.stmelsacademy.org
Board Chair: Dominick Yezzo
Principal: Mrs. Amy Barron, M.A., M.S.Ed.

DIRECTOR OF MUSIC

Kelsey Sheldon

DIRECTOR OF FAITH FORMATION

Paula Migliore
Faith Formation Office - (718) 461-9840

BAPTISMS

Call the Rectory Office for information at least one month in advance.

MARRIAGES

Call the Rectory Office for information and appointment with a priest at least six months prior to the date you wish.

NEW PARISHIONERS

We are always happy to welcome new parishioners into the family of St. Mel. Stop in at the Rectory to register, ask questions and meet the priests who gladly serve you.

PASTORAL CARE TO THE HOMEBOUND

We are concerned about parishioners who are homebound and would like to receive the Eucharist, the Sacrament of Reconciliation or the Anointing of the Sick. If you are homebound, or if you know someone who is unable to come to Mass - please do not hesitate to contact the Rectory -718-886-0201. Visits will be happily arranged for you.

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION & NOVENA

Each Monday after the 9:00 A.M. Mass.
Blessed Sacrament Devotions:
First Friday Adoration 9:30 A.M. to 12:00 P.M.
Daily Recitation of the Rosary: 8:30 A.M.

EVANGELIZATION

If you know of any Catholic, who is not attending Church or receiving the Sacraments and desires help in returning, please call or refer them to one of the priests at 718-886-0201. All information is confidential.

RECTORY OFFICE HOURS

Monday - Friday 9:00 A.M. to 3:00 P.M.
Weekends by Appointment Only
Emergencies any time.



“Not all heroes wear capes.” That’s true. Some wear Roman collars.

In 2021 the US Navy posthumously awarded Lt. Thomas M. Conway, a Catholic chaplain from the Diocese of Buffalo, the Navy Cross, the second highest honor bestowed for valor and extraordinary heroism.

Father Conway was one of the many casualties of WWII. He and most of the crew of the USS Indianapolis died at sea after their cruiser was torpedoed by a Japanese sub in 1945.

It staggers the mind when you consider the loss of life. Of the 1,196-crew, only 317 survived. If they were not immediately killed by the initial blast, they died from dehydration, hunger, and shark attack as they desperately waited days in the Pacific for rescue.

Survivors recalled the bravery and pastoral zeal of Father Conway who swam among the frightened sailors, bringing them spiritual comfort and hope. He ultimately succumbed to the ocean’s harsh conditions.

Sadly, it took 76 years for the US Navy to recognize his courage. A few factors prevented him from receiving the well-deserved honor.

At the ceremony in his native city of Waterbury, Connecticut, Secretary of the Navy Kenneth J. Braithwaite stated: “Today, we are here to right the record and send a message that we shall never forget. My mother taught me that it’s never too late to say you’re sorry. Today the Navy is sorry for not recognizing Chaplain Conway’s heroism, dedication, and courage sooner.”

My mother taught me to always say thank you.

Look around and in the mirror. See how blessed we are thanks to the countless men and women who like Father Conway made the ultimate sacrifice for our freedom.

“Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one’s life for one’s friends” (John13:13).

May we in turn show our gratitude by prayerfully remembering them this weekend and always thinking of them with profound love and respect.

Happy Memorial Day!

Father Fonti

Mass Intentions - May 26, 2024

SAT	5/25
5:00	Carmina Guerino & Pietro Martelli
SUN	5/26
7:30	Arsen Grgas
9:00	Enzo & Angela Cecchetti Michele Picerno Joseph Iccari Anthony Pompa Giuseppe Barretta Mario Codispoti The People of The Parish
10:30	Paddy Reilly & Colm & Mary Murphy
12:00	Giuseppe & Rosaria Candela
MON	5/27
9:00	Carlos Alberto Espinosa
TUES	5/28
7:00	Paskalda Antolos
9:00	Richard Higgins
WED.	5/29
7:00	Carlos Espinosa
9:00	Dominick Pugliese
THURS.	5/30
7:00	Living & Deceased Members of The Bona & Papi Families
9:00	Americo DeAnnuntis
FRI.	5/31
7:00	Fr. Al Barozzi (Living)
9:00	Vivian, Janet, & John Amriati
SAT	6/1
9:00	Albert Magliano George Spicijaric Miread McInnerney Anne Smith
5:00	Mom & Dad Perrotto & James Cioffi
SUN	6/2
7:30	John George Spicijaric
9:00	Isabella & Salvatore LoBrutto Paul Proctor Carmelo Giardina & Americo Chima Katherine Munnelly Silvano & Gemma Matrullo Giuseppe Barretta The People of The Parish
10:30	Alfred Funai
12:00	Isolina Ciarniello

Bread and Wine

*This week the Bread and Wine are
donated in Loving Memory of:*

Joseph DeAnnuntis

Given by: The DeAnnuntis Family

Altar Candles

*This week the Altar Candles are donated
in Loving Memory of:*

Joseph & Gina Picerno

Given by: Their Children

Sanctuary Candles

*This week the Sanctuary Candle is
donated in Loving Memory of:*

*For those who made the ultimate
sacrifice for our freedom.*

Newly Enrolled in the Purgatorial Society

April, 2024

*Francesco Cesarano
Carmelo Acquista
Giuseppe Barretta
Otilia Koscica
Maria Brescio
Emilia Foschi
Dino Biordi
Raiko Karlic
Sheryl Ann Lonergan
Henry Lee
Frank Zukovsky, RN
Jann Nunez
Mrs. Eileen Smith*



In your prayers...

Father of goodness and love, hear our prayers for the sick members of our community and for all who are in need. Amen

We pray for all those who are sick, especially:

- Matt Z.
- Lisa Sperazza
- Susan Trezioso
- Nick Roberto
- Pasqualina Lucciola
- Julia Rollo
- Francesca Cecile
- Angelo Ragonese
- Nick O'Donnell
- Patricia O'Donnell
- Kristian Mendez
- Jennifer Russo
- Roseann Orlando
- Barbara Ann Luisi
- Tom Sammel
- Freda Cassini
- Jacinta Carolan
- Assunta Goldone
- Kruno Pandzic
- Carol Sturm
- Martha Catul
- Dominick Fortino
- RoseAnn Dell Apenna
- Alida Addeo
- Yolanda Gatti
- Patricia Parrish
- Carmen A. Leites
- Carolynn Freeda
- Anthony Marino
- Mario Sumberac
- Helen Sumberac
- George Behringer
- Avery Santiago
- Ari Ortiz
- Susan Caraher
- Brian Finnerty
- Lee Ragusa
- Paul Adessa
- Joanne Perricelli
- Drenckhahn
- Dottie Giordano
- Siena Rose Romagnuolo
- David G.
- Rosa Annibale
- Mia Elizabeth Skaats
- Nicky O'Donnell
- Jimmy Caraher
- John Holmes
- Venice Hernandez
- Eileen McBride
- Cami Yandoli
- Lynn Gallagher
- John Paul Yezzo
- Niki Angelopoulous
- Valerie Albano Krug
- Bryan Day
- Theresa Bedell
- Angela Infantino
- Carol VitoBello
- Giovanna Palmese
- Olga Scopa
- Tom Hummel
- Edda Iacona
- Bob Mistretta
- Patricia Lamagna
- Lester Kuczynski
- Beverly Ilchert
- Danielle Byrd
- Patricia Suarz
- Lena Bae
- Antoinette Ruotolo
- Charles Ragnauth
- Giovanna Mazzoni
- James Burns
- Giovanni Badalamente
- Vivian Dunne

We pray for those recently deceased from our parish:

Salvatore Torino



Next Sunday, June 2nd, The Men's Club is sponsoring a Car Show. As their event falls on a Sunday, I reminded the Club's leadership that **Sunday is primarily a day for worship**. In response, I was assured that the event would not commence until 12:00 PM and that those attending Mass will not be hindered from parking in the lot or around the church. I

was also assured that all the homeowners who live on 26th Avenue between 154th & Murray Street have been informed that their block will be closed. While the street will be closed, residents will be able to come and go as they like throughout the afternoon.

I wish all those involved and attending a peaceful and enjoyable event.

Father Fonti

Wedding Anniversary Mass

All couples celebrating their 25th, 50th, and 75th Anniversary are invited to renew their vows at a Mass celebrated by bishop Brennan.

Saturday, September 28th, 2024

11:30 AM

**St. Thomas Aquinas Church
1550 Hendrickson Street, Brooklyn**

Please come to the rectory to register.

The Fee is \$35.00 - registration must be done by September 15th.

If you have any questions regarding the celebration
please call 718-281-9540

All registered couples will receive a personalized certificate and those couples in attendance will have their picture taken with the Bishop.

MEMORIAL DAY PRAYER

**God of power and mercy,
you destroy war and
put down earthly pride.
Banish violence from
our midst and
wipe away our tears,
that we may all deserve
to be called your sons
and daughters.**

**Keep in your mercy
those men and women
who have died in the
cause of freedom and
bring them safely
into your kingdom of
justice and peace.
We ask this through
Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.**

- Prayer from Catholic Household Blessings & Prayers

dosp.org



St. Mel's Catholic Academy.... we appreciate our teachers!



Here at St. Mel's Catholic Academy, we appreciate our teachers each and every day, but especially during Teacher's Appreciation Week. We are thankful for all that they do for our students on a daily basis. Our teachers go above and beyond, often working well past the end of the school day, grading assignments, planning their lessons, answering emails, posting on Google Classroom, etc. As a special thank you, our PAA planned a virtual "trip" for our teachers, sending them to the sky lounge for snacks, to France for breakfast, to Switzerland for some chocolate snacks, to the Mediterranean for lunch and finally to the Caribbean for some rest and relaxation. Thank you PAA for planning this and thank you to all of our teachers, faculty and staff.



"Teaching kids to count is fine, but teaching them what counts is best" Bob Talbert, journalist



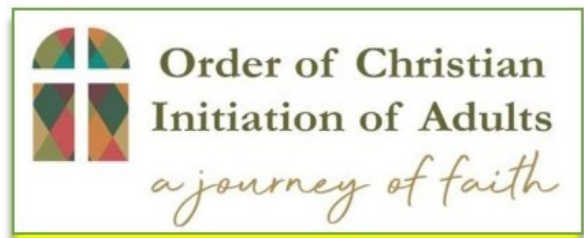
Religious Education Program

St. Mel's Office of Faith Formation oversees the St. Mel School of Religion Program which provides Religious Instruction to children in grades 1 through 8 who attend public schools. Through our Religious Education program, we seek to increase children's awareness of the presence of God in their daily lives through Scripture, prayer and an appropriate curriculum that teaches Catholic doctrine necessary for children to become good, practicing Catholics. The program also prepares the children to complete their initiation into the Catholic Church through the Sacraments of First Communion and Confirmation. Classes are held on Wednesdays from 3:30 pm to 5:00 pm for Grades 1-5 and from 6:30 pm to 8:00 pm for Grades 6-8.



Re-registration and new registrations for the 2024-2025 school year are in process. Parents/Guardians of new and returning students can register for the new school year by completing the on-line registration form found at <https://stmels-queens.org/religious-education>.

If you have any questions regarding St. Mel's Religious Education program, please call the Office of Faith Formation at 718-461- 9840 or email us at stmelfaithformation@gmail.com and mariamarotta@stmels-queens.org



◆ Are you a practicing adult Catholic (18+) seeking the sacrament of Confirmation, who has been baptized and have received your first Holy Communion?

If you answered yes, to this question, we invite you to participate in our Adult Confirmation Program which would prepare you to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation on Pentecost Sunday, May 28th. The Adult Confirmation Program presents an overview of the essentials of the Catholic Faith, focusing on immediate catechesis for the reception of the sacrament of Confirmation. The program includes presentations, group discussion, reflection, and prayer.

◆ Are you interested in the Catholic faith?
◆ Have you been coming to church for a while but are not Catholic?
◆ Have you been baptized Catholic or validly baptized in another Christian denomination and wish to be fully initiated into the Catholic faith through the Sacraments of Confirmation and Communion?

If you answered yes to this question, we invite you to look deeper into the Catholic faith through a process called the Order of Christian Initiation of Adults ("OCIA") It is also adapted for older children.

If you are interested in learning more about these programs, contact the Office of Faith Formation at stmelfaithformation@gmail.com or at 718-461-9840.



Annual Catholic Appeal 2024

DIOCESE OF BROOKLYN

Each year **St. Mel R.C. Church** and the Diocese of Brooklyn engage in the **Annual Catholic Appeal** which supports Catholic programs throughout Brooklyn and Queens and affects the lives of countless individuals and families living in our neighborhoods in addition to benefiting our parish. The Annual Catholic Appeal makes possible those programs that no one parish could do alone.

Why is your participation important?

As followers of Jesus here at **St. Mel R.C. Church**, we understand our responsibility to our parish implies a responsibility to the diocese which unites us together with the entire Catholic community as the one body of Christ.

When one part of the body does not participate, the entire body suffers and makes it harder to function. Likewise, your participation in this Appeal, over and above your regular Sunday offering, will determine the ability of **St. Mel R.C. Church** to faithfully support the mission of Christ while also providing the needed support we receive as one parish, which is part of the larger Catholic Church.

Please join us to respond as the Church of Christ called to Communion, Participation & Mission in Brooklyn and Queens through a pledge to the **Annual Catholic Appeal** today at AnnualCatholicAppeal.org or text **DONATE** to **917-336-1255**

The **Annual Catholic Appeal** seeks to raise a minimum of \$8 million to provide programs and ministries throughout the Diocese and support the local efforts of parishes like ours.

The goal at St. Mel R.C. Church is \$84,065

We have collected: \$107,071.57

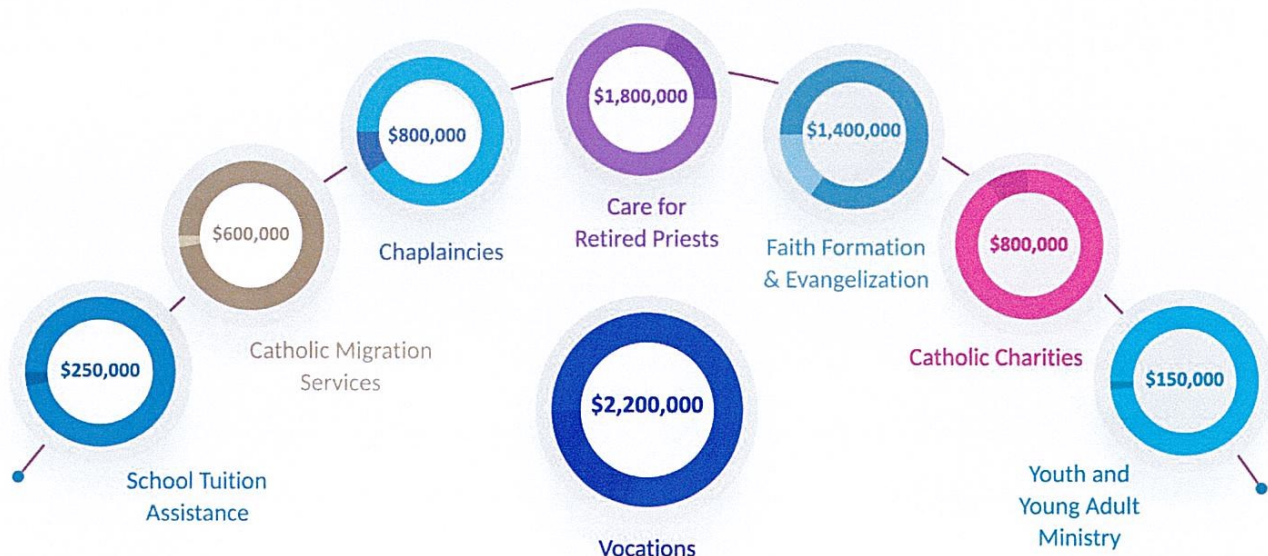
Once we exceed our goal, we will then receive 100% of all funds raised above this figure directly back to our parish.

For questions regarding the **Annual Catholic Appeal**, or to schedule an appointment to make a gift to the parish, please contact the

Parish Office –
(718) 886-0201

**Called to
Communion,
Participation &
Mission**

What does the Annual Catholic Appeal Support?





Stay Connected to St. Mel's Church

Go to: <http://stmelsrchurch.flocknote.com> or you can find the app, Flocknote

This will bring you to the sign up page to enter your name, email address, and mobile phone number. You will be asked to verify your email or mobile number or both if given.

Once you have your information verified you will be asked to create a password.

Then you will just follow the directions on the site. Once all is complete you will be set up to receive updates from Fr. Fonti.

Connect with St Mel using the Free Social App Tabella

Tabella is a fully Catholic app where you can enjoy Catholic content to grow in the faith. The Tabella app is available in English/ Spanish and has the biggest library of Catholic audio devotional content.

If you currently receive parish communications through Flocknote, be sure to download this app to your phone as it will eventually replace Flocknote for parish communications. This app is very easy to use and when there is a post from us you will get a push notification on your phone.

In the meantime, use all the resources available on this app to nurture your faith.

Step 1: Just scan the QR code to the left.

Step 2: Find and Follow St Mel Church. Use the Communities tab and search for "11354" Then click the "follow" Button on our church profile. You are now all set.

DEFENSIVE DRIVING

Saturday, June 15th

9:00AM—3:30PM

Given in the St. Mel Men's Club
\$50

Call Marty for more information:
631-360-9720



Because no marriage is beyond hope...

- Is your marriage tearing you apart?
- Do you feel hurt and angry?
- Does talking make it worse?
- Thought of leaving or divorce?
- Is your marriage heading in the wrong direction?

Retrouvaille can help.

**Our Next Weekend is
September 13-15, 2024
at The Immaculate Conception
Seminary, Huntington**

**To register or for more information:
1-800-470-2230
HelpOurMarriage.org**

Retrouvaille is a practical program for married couples facing difficult challenges. It is not counseling and you will not be asked to share the personal details of your story.

Retrouvaille is different; it's a way to improve your communication, help you reconnect, and build a healthy, happier, stronger marriage.

Catholic in origin, couples of all faiths, or no faith background, are welcome to attend. We are a Christian Peer Ministry offering tens of thousands of marriages hope in over 160 communities world-wide.

NARANON OPEN MEETING

Looking for support?
A loved one struggling with addiction?

YOU ARE NOT ALONE

JOIN US TUESDAY EVENINGS FROM
7:30-9:00PM

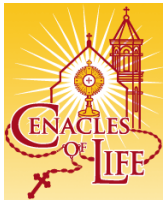
Lower level of St. Mel School

Contact: Ann Acquaviva 201-400-7760

for more details

On Monday, May 27th in observance of Memorial Day there will only be one Mass at 9AM. The rectory office will also be closed.

The Cenacles of Life



The Cenacles of Life are prayer groups that pray as the Blessed Mother and the Apostles prayed in the Upper Room, awaiting the Holy Spirit at Pentecost. They pray – as should all Catholics – to stop the killing of the unborn, sick, and disabled. The goal of the Prayer Group: restore respect for the sanctity of life which has so frighteningly eroded in our country and world. Please come and pray with St. Mel's Cenacle of Life: Thursdays @ 11:00 AM in the church.

I Cenacoli della Vita sono gruppi di preghiera che pregano comeregarono la Madonna e gli Apostoli nel Cenacolo, in attesa dello Spirito Santo a Pentecoste. Pregano—come dovrebbero tutti i cattolici—per fermare l'uccisione di nascituri, malati e disabili. L'obiettivo del gruppo di preghiera: ripristinare il rispetto per la santità della vita che ha così spaventosamente eroso nel nostro Paese e nel mondo. Per favore, venite a pregare con il Cenacolo della Vita di San Mel: giovedì alle 11:00 in chiesa.



AA Meetings

The First Step is always the hardest. It's made easier when it is not taken alone.

St. Mel's hosts 2 Weekly Meetings:

**Mondays – 7:30 PM (Beginners)
Thursdays – 8:00 PM**

Meetings are held in Serenity Hall. Entrance on 26th Ave / School Yard

A PRAYER FOR HEALING VICTIMS OF ABUSE

God of endless love,
ever caring, ever strong,
always present, always just:
You gave your only Son
to save us by his blood on the cross.



Gentle Jesus, shepherd of peace,
join to your own suffering
the pain of all who have been hurt
in body, mind, and spirit
by those who betrayed the trust placed in them.



Hear the cries of our brothers and sisters
who have been gravely harmed,
and the cries of those who love them.
Soothe their restless hearts with hope,
steady their shaken spirits with faith.
Grant them justice for their cause,
enlightened by your truth.



Holy Spirit, comforter of hearts,
heal your people's wounds
and transform brokenness into wholeness.
Grant us the courage and wisdom,
humility and grace, to act with justice.
Breathe wisdom into our prayers and labors.
Grant that all harmed by abuse may find peace in justice.
We ask this through Christ, our Lord. Amen.

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PLEASE

TURN OFF

**CELL
PHONES**



Thank you!

St. Mel's Leisure Club



Saint Mel's Leisure Club meets every Monday at 1:30 PM in Father O'Malley Hall. Some come for bingo. Some to play cards or board games. All come for what the Club offers: friendship and camaraderie.

No Meeting on Monday, May 27

May 19, 2024

Mass Attendance Total = 686

5:00 PM— 99

7:30 AM—140

9:00 AM—106

10:30 AM—201

12:00 PM—140

Parish Partnerships are seriously being considered for our deanery and throughout our diocese. To help us understand the process, I will be publishing in our weekly bulletin our Sunday Mass attendance numbers so that if in the future there is a change made to our Mass schedule, we will understand that the change was not solely predicated on the number of parish priests, but on the data.

Bundle Saturday St. Vincent de Paul



The next bundle Saturday will be July 13th. St. Vincent de Paul will have a truck in the St. Mel's parking lot from 9am—12:00pm.

Lightly used clothing is needed. They also accept shoes, handbags, towels, and linens. Thank you for your generosity.

Pasta Dinner

FUNDRAISER

Food - Drink - Music - Raffles

TUESDAY, JUNE 18th, 2024

6:30pm - 9:30pm

ST. LUKE'S PASTORAL CENTER

16-34 Clintonville Street, Whitestone, NY 11357

For more information or to reserve your seat / table please contact Nick at 516-660-4818

PRICE: \$25.00

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THE CHOSEN
SEASON FOUR

PARISHES OF
ST. LUKE & ST. MEL

Join us on

Thursday, May 30 - Ep. 4
at
7:00 PM

Msgr. Tosi Pastoral Center
St. Luke Church Basement

St Mel School Reunion

Class of 2014

Class of 1974

10th & 50th Anniversaries

Celebration for Class of '14 and '74 Alumni, Families & Faculty

Saturday, June 22, 2024

Church of St Mel ~ St Mel Catholic Academy

2615 154th St, Flushing, NY 11354

5 PM Mass

| 6 PM School Tour

| 6:30 - 10:30 PM Celebration

**For Details, To Register, Purchase Tickets
or Contact Event Committee:**

www.eventcreate.com/e/stmelreunion

Tickets ~ \$50 per adult

Please RSVP Online by June 8, 2024

Additional Contact Information:

Class of '74: Maureen Ardif Cooke (917) 603-4234

Class of '14: Kathy Siano (917) 648-9393

Memorial Day Word Search

R E M S A L U T E S F L A G P
O E L A M A F R E E D O M E A
B A S A C R I F I C E I E M R
E L E P E M A Y C R A T R I A
T T U M E M O R I A L E I L D
H Y R E U C H E R O E S C I E
O U O N S A T E H I N G A T S
C M E R W H I S O H S U S A H
R E M E M B R A N C E R W R O
E C M D A L F E O D R E H Y L
S T H E R O S A R A V T I E I
O R I A T E M E L Y I T T M D
S O L D I E R S R L C E E I A
T O C O L E R F R E E C B A Y
I T M O N D A Y D O T N U E L



AMERICA
BLUE
CEMETERY
FALLEN
FLAG
FREEDOM
HEROES

HOLIDAY
HONOR
MAY
MEMORIAL
MILITARY
MONDAY
PARADE
RED

REMEMBRANCE
RESPECT
SACRIFICE
SALUTE
SERVICE
SOLDIERS
WHITE





The Solemnity of the Body and Blood of Christ – Corpus Christi

The feast of the Body and Blood of Christ is celebrated in the USA on the Sunday after Trinity Sunday. Like Trinity Sunday, it does not recall an event in the life of the Lord Jesus but expresses one of the Church's long-held beliefs, in this case that Jesus lives on in the Holy Eucharist, the Most Blessed Sacrament.

While the somberness or solemnity of Holy Week mute the observance the gift of the Holy Eucharist on Holy Thursday, Corpus Christi Sunday augments our celebration of this gift at another point in the liturgical year.

The feast was first observed in France prior to the year 1200 and allowed for the faithful in festive celebrations to recall that Jesus Christ is really present, Body and Blood, Soul and Divinity, and with his people in the Holy Eucharist. Its processions were part of the spring celebrations in the life of the local religious communities or towns. To paraphrase the Old Testament, "How lucky are we! What God is like our God who is so close to His People" (Psalm 77).

Egeria Inserts are an endeavor of egeriathepilgrim.com



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