

God turns our unworthiness into sainthood with His grace and strength through the divine in the Eucharist.

SOW THE WORD

COME TO THE FEAST

"²¹ His son said to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you; I no longer deserve to be called your son.' ²² But his father ordered his servants, 'Quickly bring the finest robe and put it on him; put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. ²³ Take the fattened calf and slaughter it. Then let us celebrate with a feast, ²⁴ because this son of mine was dead, and has come to life again; he was lost, and has been found.' Then the celebration began."

(Luke 15:21-24)

Life is a journey. Every day is a new adventure. We make choices. Sometimes, our choices may draw us away from God. Lent is a time to renew our love for God. It is a time to embrace the good and the bad choices we have made and return home to our Father's open arms. He has prepared a banquet for us. Come to the feast.

RETURN TO THE LORD

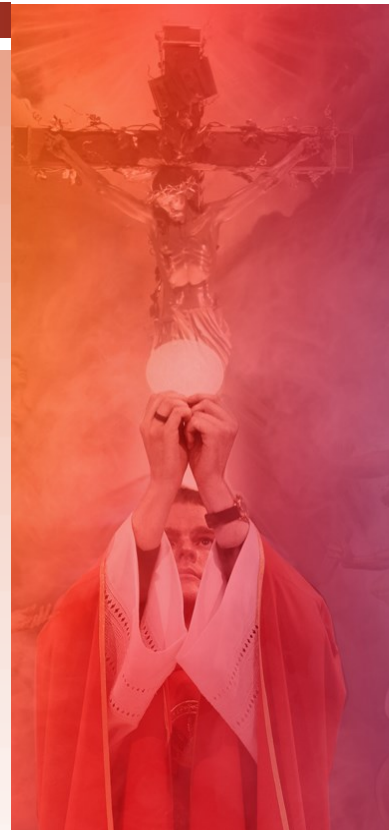
In Genesis, Chapter 2 we read... "then the Lord God formed the man out of the dust of the ground and blew into his nostrils the breath of life, and the man became a living being."



Ash Wednesday reminds us that "...you are dust and to dust you shall return." Ashes symbolize our mortality.

Just as the ancient Hebrews sought forgiveness by putting on sackcloth and ashes, we too, are marked with ashes and called to humble our hearts through prayer and penance before our earthly life passes away.

Paradise awaits us if we remember our mortality and mourn our sinfulness. "Repent and be faithful to the Gospel." We should not be mourning during this time of Lent, but rejoicing that our God has redeemed us. Let us renew our hearts and "Return to the Lord."



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COME HOME

*Are you a Catholic
who never received
the Sacrament of Confirmation?*

OR

*Are you interested in learning
more the Catholic Faith?*

Contact: Bridget Schlebecker
bschlebecker@parish.dol-in.org

RECONCILIATION

A SACRAMENT THAT
OFFERS

PEACE
JOY
RELIEF
LOVE

For many Catholics, the Sacrament of Reconciliation brings incredible feelings of peace, joy, relief, and love that they never expected. It is in the sacrament of reconciliation that we encounter God. He is there to embrace us, not our sins or humiliation.

When we become discouraged in our shame of sinfulness, unable to forgive ourselves, we need only to look upon the cross. It reminds us of the great love that Jesus has for us. His arms are open to receive us and bring us to the joy of his salvation and forgiveness.

Perhaps we stumble through the prayers we once learned...fearing embarrassment. The priest is there to help and absolve you.

*Fear not.
Open your heart.*

WELCOME HOME by: Dorinda Resner

I never really meant to stop attending the Catholic Church all those years ago. I let life and friends and *stuff* get in the way. Mass on Sunday had become so routine and boring. I mean, after attending Sacred Heart School in the 70's when we went to mass EVERYDAY **and** Sunday - maybe I felt like I had had enough church for a lifetime. Apart from that, no one went out of their way to make me feel welcome in church. I was a stranger sitting alone. Did my presence really matter?

Finally, I came to a point in my life where **I needed** to feel God's presence. I craved the connection of a church community. I was a lost sheep. I tried a variety of churches and still, was not feeling what I needed. Fast forward - I moved back home to Fowler.

I was forgiven!

It was in 2023 that my Mom asked me to go with her to a "cooking event" by Father Leo Patalinghug.

I had no idea how much of an impact this presentation. This man fed my soul! I felt like he was speaking just to me - wanting me to renew my faith and come back to the church again. I did. That very next Sunday I was at Mass and I have not missed since. I love attending mass now! ***I know my presence does matter...***to me and to God.

During Lent last year, I went to confession for the first time in almost 40 years - I had no idea how burdened I was with my sins. When the priest offered his prayer of absolution an amazing feeling poured over me. I was forgiven! My Father has welcomed me home again!

God's love for us does not depend on our faithfulness; it is unconditional. He loves us even while we are still sinners. Even though we are demanding and do not remain faithful, God is still our faithful and loving Father who is always there to welcome us **home**.



“WORTHY”

by: Deacon Joe Poremski

When one considers his/her own “worthiness”, we ALL are lacking. A closer look at the circumstance may be in order. Worthy – of or for what?

By definition, the word worthy means “...*having adequate or great merit, character, or value.*” I’ve personally heard many a man who was discerning his call to the priesthood, or the permanent diaconate make the statement, “I just don’t feel worthy of this call.” Oftentimes, that statement gets used as an “escape hatch” to get someone out of pursuing their full, proper discernment of such a vocational call. But please don’t be too hasty in playing the “I’m not worthy” card if you hear such a call from the Holy Spirit.

You’ll notice in the definition provided that the word ‘worthy’ means having ADEQUATE merit. When discerning such a vocational call, adequate will do...!!! The discernment process itself, along with Holy Mother Church, Her representatives and formators, along with others one will meet on the discernment road will help with determining the rest.

“Adequate worthy” works in that arena, but what about “worthy” to receive Holy Communion at Mass? *Who but me / myself can determine if I’m worthy to receive the Precious Body and Blood of my Redeemer when I go to Mass?* That’s where the decision becomes a lot more personal.

We should know from our Catechism that someone who is in the state of mortal sin should not receive Communion without first receiving the Sacrament of Reconciliation. To do otherwise [to receive Holy Communion while knowingly being in the state of mortal sin] is a form of desecration of the Most Holy Eucharist. There are grave consequences for the soul who knowingly commits such an act.

Lesser, [venial] sins are remitted in the opening [Penitential] Rite which occurs at the start of the Liturgy. In this Rite, we are to reflect on our offenses [when Father says the words, “...let us call to mind our sins...”]; we ask God’s pardon [Father/Deacon say, “...Lord, have mercy / ...Christ have mercy / ...Lord have mercy”]; and then what follows are some words of absolution. This “readies” us [our souls] to



receive the Body and Blood of Christ, which will nourish our bodies, strengthen our souls, and help us to better grow in our faith journey through

this world.

Recall the words spoken by the Roman Centurion to Jesus as He entered the town of Capernaum; “**...I am not worthy to have you enter my home. But if you only say the words, my servant will be healed.**” [Matthew 8:5-9] Those words spoken by that self-proclaimed unworthy man are repeated by each of us before receiving the Divine Eucharist at every Mass in every language of the world where Mass is offered. When one considers his/her own “worthiness”, we ALL are lacking. But throughout church history, God has turned our unworthiness into sainthood with His grace and strength through the divine in the Eucharist.

DID YOU KNOW?

There is **NO** sin greater than the love and mercy of God.

Venial sins are remitted during the Mass in the Penitential Rite. So, when we ask “Lord have Mercy” God hears and answers us.

“The whole power of the Sacrament of Penance consists of restoring us to God’s grace and joining us with him in intimate friendship.”

Catechism of the Catholic Church #1468

Contrition is a gift from God. A prompting of the Holy Spirit. A stirring of conscience that brings about a change of heart through God’s mercy and forgiveness.

Catechism of the Catholic Church #1453

“Sin is an act contrary to reason that wounds (our) nature... and injures human solidarity.”

Catechism of the Catholic Church #1872

+ “**Mortal sin** destroys charity in the heart of man by a grave violation of God’s law...committed with full knowledge and deliberate consent.”

Catechism of the Catholic Church #1857

+ “**Venial sin** weakens charity...it disposes us little by little to commit mortal sin...Venial sin does not deprive the sinner of sanctifying grace”

Catechism of the Catholic Church #1863

MIRACLE NOT MAGIC

The words that the priest speaks at Mass are not magic words – they are the words of Jesus Christ, the Son of God. These particular words spoken by Christ, “This is my body,” and “This is my blood,” are the Words of Institution, and they are the holiest and most important part of the Mass.



As Catholics, we believe Jesus’ words **literally**, not symbolically. The substance of the bread and wine transform into the Body, Blood, Soul, and Divinity of Jesus Christ at every Mass. We call this **Miracle of the Eucharist**.

NATIONAL EUCHARISTIC REVIVAL

Join us in Indianapolis as we ask the Lord to re-vive our love of the Eucharist breathing His life into our dry bones. Then, we will be sent back to our communities to invite others to know Jesus.

*Our nation and
our world will
never be the same.*

If you would like to have more information on purchasing a pass, please visit the National Eucharistic Congress Website <https://www.eucharisticcongress.org/register>

or scan
this code
to register



*Take, This is My Body...
This is My Blood of the New Covenant*

A PRIEST AND HIS CHALICE

by: Father Sean Aaron

The General Instruction of the Roman Missal (GIRM) states: “*Sacred vessels are to be made from precious metal*” (GIRM 328).

A priest will often own their own chalice. In addition, many churches may have chalices of their own bequeathed to them by former pastors or clergy who once served that parish. These chalices may be used by the current pastors or visiting priests. Either way, a chalice is a very personal, and sacred vessel to a priest.

One of the gifts of the Holy Spirit sealed within us in the sacrament of Confirmation is piety. Piety is giving God His due worship and reverence. The gift of piety should be expressed in our participation at Mass, where we encounter the Lord in a profound way. Therefore, the Church recognizes it as an act of piety for the priest to have a chalice, a vessel of God’s very presence and a dwelling place for the presence of God.

Upon my ordination to the priesthood, the Raczek family gifted me the chalice used by Fr. Raczek. The gift of this chalice for me, is also a reminder of the gift of Fr. Razcek’s priesthood, his service to God and to others, especially to me and my family.

...CHALICE (cont.)

The chalice was given to Fr. Raczek when he was ordained a priest in 1956 by his maternal grandparents. One of his first assignments was at St. Joan of Arc in Kokomo, where my uncles served Mass for Fr. Raczek while they were in grade school; and where he presided over the wedding of my Dad and Mom. Fr. Raczek became a dear friend of our family.

Ask any of them about something they remember about him and they will surely respond ... "his chalice."

There is much imagery on the chalice. The node is the crown of thorns. On the base is a grape vine with Jesus and the beloved disciple, John. In Latin, are the words, "Remain in My Love." The chalice is a wonderful reminder of God's presence and gift to us in the Eucharist.



We come to know God through our senses: the sound of bells ringing, the aroma of incense, the taste of bread and wine, the touch of a handshake, the sight of beautiful art, all of these during mass heighten our awareness of the Almighty. These, and other sacred signs, like a chalice, can help us know the Lord in a better way and aid us in our prayer.

Receiving the Eucharist brings us into communion with God, which makes Him a priceless gift to us, and therefore, must be treated with respect and honor.

As believers in the Real Presence of Jesus Christ in the Eucharist, we believe that Jesus is present to us under the appearance of bread and wine. The chalice holds the wine until, through the words of consecration by the priest, the **bread and wine change substantially into Christ's body, blood, soul and divinity. There is nothing more precious.**

NATIONAL EUCHARISTIC REVIVAL

YOU DON'T WANT TO MISS THIS MOMENT

God hears our prayers for the renewal of our Church. He will answer them through a life-changing transformation of our own hearts.

The 10th National Eucharistic Congress is taking place in Indianapolis! It is an invitation to experience profound personal revival so we can be sent out to share Christ's love with a world that so desperately needs it.

Whether you can come for one day or all five, join us for this generational moment.

We know what happens when two or more are gathered in the Lord's name...

**but what happens
with 80,000?!**



scan this
code to
register

POETRY CORNER

by Sacred Heart School Students

EUCCHARIST

by: Allie Gross

Enlightening the world we
live in today
Unites us to love all the way
Christ is kind
He will never leave us, I remind
Art thou the king of the Earth
Realize those 6 words tell of his
worth
I love Jesus with all my heart
So nothing will ever keep us
apart
Truly meek and humble of
heart, may our love for you
never depart

EUCCHARIST

by: Sienna M. Ziembo

Believe in God I say to you
I do and you should too
Put him first
Because the devil is the worst
Make him king everyday
Tomorrow, yesterday and today
Please get baptized
You'll be surprised
By the good that it brings
You'll feel as if you have wings

EUCCHARIST

by: Adalynn Schutter

The Holy Eucharist makes me
whole, it brings me closer to
God in my soul.

Jesus is coming, make sure your
hearts are full, full of love for
him, and love for all.

All who receive shall be called
to the gates, the gates of
heaven is where they shall lay.

A VISIT WITH JESUS

by: Joseph Kidwell

Adoration of the Most Holy Eucharist at Sacred Heart of Jesus Church in Fowler, has been available for several decades. We have been blessed to have enough adorers to cover 13 hours each week, including several substitutes to call on when needed. I am one of those adorers.

Adorers can be anyone who would like to keep Jesus company. The time commitment can be brief or as long as one desires during the Wednesday hours of adoration. Over the years, many faithful parishioners from around the county, as well as from neighboring counties, have regularly committed an hour or so every week. Not everyone can commit an hour each week and that is okay. Sometimes we may only have a few minutes available, but it is enough for our Lord.

*"Feeling His presence and being at total peace with
Jesus in the Most Holy Eucharist is beyond words."*

I can only speak of my personal experience, the benefits received and satisfaction felt, when having an intimate conversation with our Lord. There, before the Lord, I can come and pour out my heart. I know He is interested and listening. Jesus knows me because I have talked to Him about my troubles and my family. I often share with him my worries about a sick loved one, problems at work, or offer Him my sorrows. I know He is truly there, in the Monstrance, waiting for companionship, ...waiting for me...for you. Jesus wants to visit with each of us, to see us, to hear us, whether we offer prayers of needs, concerns, or simply offer praise. I even tell Him about the exciting things that happened since our last visit. It truly pleases Jesus to see those whom he created come to Him outside of the Holy Mass, and give Him praise and adoration.

"I look forward to that hour of love each week!"

While conversing with Jesus, I sometimes pray the Rosary or a chaplet, random prayers, or simply offer thoughts from my heart. I am comfortable with Jesus. I like to read the Scriptures or books about the Catholic faith and the Saints when I am with Him. Simply sitting in silence and adoring Him can be enough to settle one's soul. During these times of inclement weather, adoration provides an excellent opportunity to offer that little sacrifice up to our Lord. Getting out of that comfortable recliner and going outside in that nasty weather is not really what I want to do, but I do it for Love. (cont. pg. 7)

A VISIT WITH JESUS (cont.)

Life is hard enough to deal with day in and day out, but knowing Jesus is available and accessible to me every week in adoration, helps lighten my load. It allows me to become closer to Him than ever before. And He always manages to help me carry my burdens.

Being with Jesus, fully present in the Most Blessed Sacrament every week, allows us to rely on Him more and ourselves less; to trust in Him more and in ourselves less. He helps us to see clearer how He wants us to be and to live. In other words, He wrote the book, He has all the answers! We need only open ourselves to Him and listen.

"I do it for love."



DESIRE OF THE SOUL by Bridget Schlebecker

This beautiful sacrifice, Jesus Himself, beckons us to receive Him in the most holy Eucharist. Yet, I must admit that there have been times when I was not adequately prepared. My mind wandered in church, I mumbled the prayers during the Penitential Rite (as if they did not apply to me). I did not open my heart to listen to God's Word.

Then, one time, during the consecration, I became aware of the bells ringing. I started to reach for my phone but instead, my eyes were drawn to the small round host held aloft by the priest.

I could not look away. In that moment, I was drawn into something extraordinary. It is as if I could sense the power of heaven showering down upon all those present; as if someone opened their arms and embraced me. I prayed a silent "Forgive me Father," and understood.

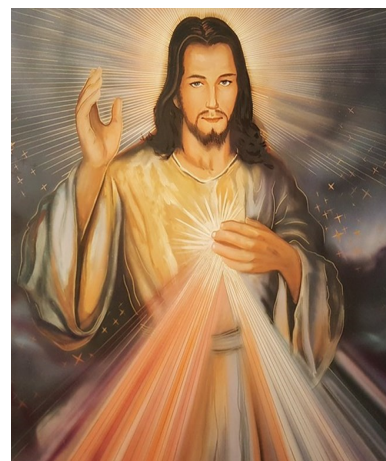
We are all imperfect and sinful. But God, takes us in our imperfections and makes us perfect in His love. We celebrate that love in the Mass and are called to share it with others.

My silent prayer today is "Thank you Jesus. I desire your presence. Fill my soul."



Jesus said to them,
"I am
the bread of life;
whoever comes
to me
will never hunger,
and whoever
believes in me
will never thirst.

John 6:35



Did you miss out on receiving the sacrament of Confirmation as a youth?

Are you married and divorced and would like to know about getting an annulment?

Were you baptized into a different denomination and would like to convert to Catholicism?

Did you miss getting baptized?

Are you just curious about the Catholic Faith?

Are you new to the area and interested in becoming a more active member of the pastorate?

If you answered yes to any of the above questions, then we have a program for you.

Please call the pastorate office
765-884-1818 OR email the
Director of Evangelization at
bschlebecker@parish.dol-in.org

RETURN TO ME WITH ALL YOUR HEART

all times are EST

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

Mondays 5pm St. Charles, Otterbein
Thursdays 5 pm St. John, Earl Park
Fridays after 8:15am Mass Sacred Heart, Fowler

STATIONS OF THE CROSS

Fridays @ 7pm Sacred Heart, Fowler

ADORATION

Wednesdays 9am to 10pm Sacred Heart, Fowler

SCRIPTURE STUDY – LECTIO: The Case for Jesus

- Begins February 12

Monday afternoons @ 1pm St. John Hall, Earl Park

- Begins February 14

Wednesday evenings @ 7pm St. Patrick Hall, Oxford

RCIA

Tuesdays @ 7pm St. Patrick Hall, Oxford

PASTORATE PENANCE SERVICE

Tuesday, March 5th @ 7pm

ST. ISIDORE THE FARMER PASTORATE

Sacred Heart Church, Fowler
St. Charles Church, Otterbein
St. John Church, Earl Park
St. Joseph Church, Kentland
St. Mary Church, Dunnington
St. Patrick Church, Oxford

SUNDAY MASS TIMES

St. Joseph, Kentland 5pm (EST)
St. Patrick, Oxford 7:30am
Sacred Heart, Fowler 10am

PASTORATE OFFICE

107 E. Main Street
Fowler, IN 47944
765-884-1818

WEEKDAY MASS TIMES

Monday St. Charles, Otterbein 6pm
Tuesday Sacred Heart, Fowler 8:15am
Thursday St. John, Earl Park 6pm
Friday Sacred Heart, Fowler 8:15am