



What do you remember?

As Catholics, we believe that when Jesus said, “This is my body.... This is my blood,” He meant exactly what He said. For us, *body* means the person, and *blood* is the source of life identifiable with the person. So, Jesus was saying over the bread and cup, “This is myself,” and we believe that the consecrated bread and wine truly becomes the very person of Jesus.

Since the twelfth century, the Church has used the word *transubstantiation* to describe the change from the “substance” of bread to the “substance” of flesh of Christ. This transformation is an act of God.

My first year of being a Catholic has been a wondrous year of learning and participating in Mass. I have felt joyous at having received the Holy Spirit through the Eucharist. However, I didn’t understand transubstantiation completely: I have tasted my own blood through the odd fat lip, so the thought of drinking Christ’s blood didn’t bother me, but, ingesting human flesh was another matter.

Through further reading, I found out that I was missing the true meaning! The appearance, taste, color and weight of the bread and wine remain just as they were before the consecration, but the essence has been changed into the body and blood of the living Christ.

“[Christ in this form] remains as a proof of His love and a reminder that He gave himself up for us, and also as proof that He wishes to share himself with us as often as possible. Christ’s desire for so intimate a union with us requires that we love Christ in the Eucharist in return.”**

Now, it makes sense. I understand that to my family and friends, my own appearance remains the same but through my faith, in learning, praying and participating in Mass, the deep essence of me, of who I am, has changed.

Nancy Hyde

References:

“Journey of Faith” Notes.

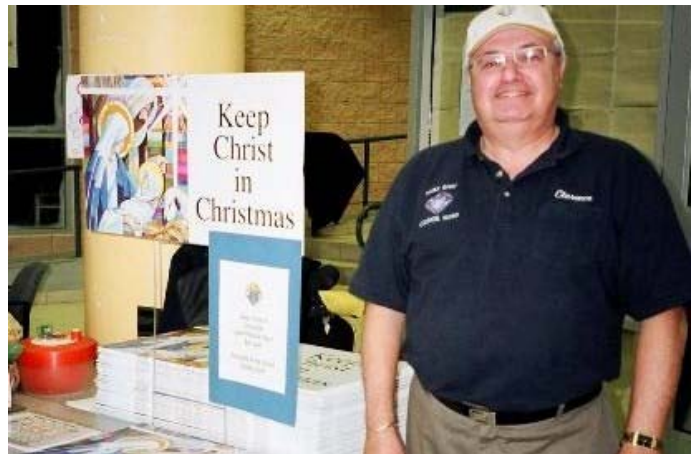
**Introduction to Catholicism, A Complete Course, Midwest Theological Forum, Woodridge, IL, 2003, p157.



Fatima Night

“A Church Building is to be like a Christian. A Christian is supposed to have an unassuming exterior and be very humble. But inside to be spiritually rich.”

Margaret Visser



Knights of Columbus “Keep Christ in Christmas”



D'Souza Family Challenge Fundraiser – Cooking Class



Liturgy

Definition: the public worship of the Church.

The Liturgical Year begins on the First Sunday of Advent and runs through to Solemnity of Christ the King.

Liturgical Cycles

The readings for Mass are found in the **Lectionary** which follows a Sunday and Weekday Cycle. The Sunday Cycle is 3-yearly and denoted by the letters A, B and C. Each year follows through one of the Gospels: A-Matthew, B-Mark, C-Luke. The Gospel of John is proclaimed on particular Sundays in each of the years.

Weekdays in Ordinary Time follow a 2 year cycle numbered I and II.

Year I is read in odd number years: year II in even ones.

Liturgical Seasons

Advent

Advent is from evening prayer 1 of the Sunday falling on or closest to the 30 November (The First Sunday of Advent) and ends before evening prayer 1 of Christmas, on 24 December, There are 4 Sundays of Advent.

Advent has a two-fold character: as a season to prepare for Christmas when Christ's first coming to us is remembered and as a season when that remembrance directs the mind and heart to await Christ's Second Coming at the end of time. *Advent is thus a period for devout and joyful expectation.*

Christmas

Christmas is from the Evening Prayer 1 of Christmas, (celebrated on the evening of 24 December, the beginning of the liturgical day of 25 December - Birth of the Lord) to Baptism of the Lord (Sunday after the Solemnity of the Epiphany).

Next to the yearly celebration of the Paschal Mystery, the Church holds most sacred the memorial of Christ's birth and early manifestations. This is the purpose of the Christmas season.

..... to be continued in the next issue...

Deacon Dominic Saseo



Youth Group at the Christmas Glitter Bazaar



Mississauga Gala at St. Christopher's Church Hall

Please see the Parish website for more photos, prayers, links, Vatican news and a whole lot more!

Check out www.holyspiritbarrie.ca

Come Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of Your faithful and enkindle in them the fire of Your love.

Send forth Your Spirit O Lord, And You shall renew the face of the earth.

Most Holy Spirit grace us and lead us to our new place of community our new place of worship.

Amen