



**Blessed Sacrament Parish**  
**Homily by Father Mike Kuse**  
**June 18, 2017 Solemnity of The Most Body and Blood of Christ**

**Reading I Deuteronomy 8:2-3, 14-18**

**Psalm 147:12-20**

**Reading II 1 Corinthians 10:16-17**

**Gospel John 6:51-58**

**Homily**

At the last supper Jesus said to his disciples, “This is my body and this is my blood. Do this in remembrance of me.” Today this feast is different. We have gone through Lent and Easter. Last week we had the Feast of the Most Holy Trinity. So today we are celebrating the Feast of the body and blood of Christ and John takes a different twist on this in his Gospel. What he is saying to you and to me is, “You must eat and drink of my body and by blood because without it you will go no where. But with it, you will transform the hearts of one another and change the world.”

Jesus would probably say to all of us this morning, “If you came here this morning for a free lunch, I’m sorry, because you are in the wrong place. But if you came here to break bread and sit at the table as the family — you are in the right place.” What does that mean? It simply means that unless we have Christ in us we are just running around in circles. A free lunch means take it, go outside, throw it in the street, and let somebody else pick it up. But when you and I come here and we receive Eucharist, it stays within us and that is what feeds us. That is what allows us to be church. That allows us to forgive each other. It allows us to lead each other. And no matter what happens in the world it allows us to find the peace within us. I never have to worry as long as Christ lives within me.

Recently there was an article I was reading about a young girl who grew up, but she had never met her father. However, forty years later and through a lot of strange circumstances she found out who her father was and they were united. The minute they were together, she could just sense the bonding even though she had never met him before. The mother had conceived her out of marriage and didn’t know where the father was. The father was all over the place, and she was all over the place, but after forty years this girl finally met the father who gave her life.

Look in your own life. Who has been feeding you? You may walk up to a house and say you’re hungry and someone will say, “Well, I’ll give you something to eat.” But then you come home and sit at the table, whether it is an ordinary breakfast, lunch or supper or if it’s Christmas, Father’s Day or Easter. And you find out that when you gather at the table you realize that not only does the food feed you — but what really gives us life is

that we are there with each other.

I am not allowed to say Mass by myself. And you would feel very strange just to sit at home and say, "I'm going to have my own Mass." Jesus says, "No. I bring you together as a church, as a people of God and I am asking you to receive the same gift." You notice when we give the host, we do not have this size and another size — we all are receiving the same size host. We drink from the same chalice. Jesus says, "There's only one Christ, and it is only my body and blood that can give you life. And when you have life you will realize that you have whatever you need to face any challenge."

You saw in the paper about Pastor Warren at the Cathedral of Worship who found his grandson dead at seven or eight years of age. When those things happen, you are not looking for a free lunch. You are looking for a community of people who can surround you and give you life. And so everybody here, there is not one single person sitting here today who could stand up and say, "I never had one difficult moment in my life." We all have struggled in one way or another. But what really bonds us together is that our faith and when we come to Eucharist we are participating in the body and blood of Jesus. And when we leave here we can say, "I have whatever I need to live out the rest of this week." You don't know what you need, neither do I, but you have whatever you need for the rest of this week, and the rest of your life.

So this morning as we pray together and come up and receive communion may we realize it is not a free lunch. A free lunch has no responsibility but when you and I come here we are responsible for each other. When we sit down at the kitchen table at home it is not a free lunch. We're here for each other and Jesus says, "Don't ever forget it because if you try and live your life without my body and blood — you are going to go in circles. But if you trust that by receiving Eucharist and I am able to give you my body and my blood, not only will I take you through every day of your life but someday, you will find your way home. And believe me, when you come home — every question you ever had will be answered, and you will never have another question.

You and I here are in a very sacred place. This is not taking place at Wal-Mart, it is not taking place in South Park, it is taking place in a building that was built way before us, handed on to us, and those people said, "Please come through these doors because when you come through these doors — Jesus will give you his body and his blood." We truly are a very gifted people.

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