

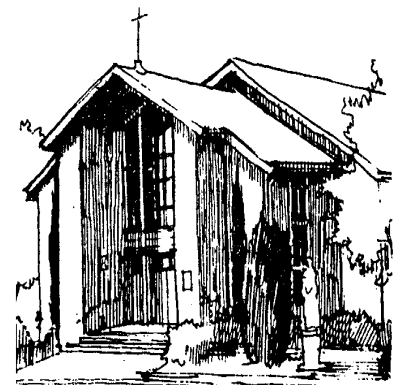
CHURCH OF THE ASSUMPTION **PARISH 510-352-1537**
1100 Fulton Avenue, San Leandro, CA 94577 Fax 510-352-2094
website: churchoftheassumption.net e-mail: SLASSUMPTION@SBCGLOBAL.NET

Fr. Vincent J. Scott, Pastor
Fr. Chris Berbena, Parochial Vicar
Deacon Dac Cao, Permanent Deacon
Deacon Harry Clyde, Permanent Deacon
Deacon George Peters, Permanent Deacon
Deacon John Durden, Permanent Deacon
Maureen Moran, Faith Formation
Mary Schirmer, Youth & Family Ministry
Toni Durden, RCIA Coordinator
Stacy Piontek, Director of Music Ministries
Rhina Ruggiero, Office Manager

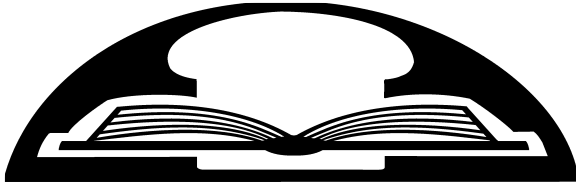
CELEBRATIONS OF THE EUCHARIST
Saturday: 8:00 AM, 5:00 PM (Vigil Mass)
Sunday: 7:30, 9:00, 10:30 AM and 12:00PM
Weekdays: 7:00 AM
Holy Days: 7:00 AM, 9:00 AM, 7:30 PM

THE SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION
Saturdays: 3:30 to 4:00 PM
Perpetual Help Devotions:
Tuesday mornings after 7:00 AM Liturgy
Rosary:
Recited every weekday morning before Mass.
Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament:
Every Wednesday 7:30-8:30 AM

Office Hours:
8:30 AM-12:00 PM – 1:30 PM-5:00 PM
School Office 357-8772
School Office Hours: 8:30 AM-3:30 PM



The Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ
June 26, 2011 Not by bread alone does one live, but by every word that comes forth from the mouth of the LORD. — *Deuteronomy 8:3b*



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The Gospel we heard today is hard to digest, yet digest it we must. On this Solemnity of the Body and Blood of Christ, Jesus' message is clear: Eat my body and drink my blood or you will not have life in you. Digestion itself, the conversion of food into a substance suitable for absorption and assimilation into the body, is easy enough to understand, yet when Jesus speaks of eating his flesh and his blood, we dispute it. How can this be? It is impossible! Jesus urgently repeats his message, imploring us to journey within ourselves and within him in search of communion.

In order to understand this reading we must closely examine the prepositions Jesus uses. Most of us know what it is to "abide with" someone else. Mark Kelly, husband of Arizona congresswoman Gabrielle Giffords, embodied "abiding with" after Gabrielle was critically wounded. He remained. He waited. He hoped. He endured.

Has anyone ever "abided" with you? Relive that experience. What did that experience feel like? Did it leave you empty or full, calm or agitated? Have you ever been told that your presence made all the difference for someone else? Do you recognize yourself as capable of remaining, waiting, hoping and enduring for another? Remember those times when you were being enfolded and enfolding others in love. Once you recognize how human abiding feels, you will be able to recognize the touch of the divine presence within.

Jesus invites us to take our human experience one step further. He invites us to abide in him. This is where our dispute begins. We don't know how to abide in him and we flail about, saying that it can't be done.

Jesus gives us the sacrament of Communion to help us enter the mystery. We understand bread. We understand wine. Each time we partake of them we eat his body and drink his blood; we abide in him.

This all sounds too good to be true, and that is the way it feels most of the time — at least for me. I remember my first Communion. I was intrigued by the mystery of it all and waited with great anticipation. On the day itself, fasting left me tired and cranky and far from angelic. Such is the human experience. Fortunately this is not the divine experience. Within our very souls Jesus is already abiding in us. He remains. He waits. He hopes. He endures. He dwells. As we continue to receive Communion — a visible sign of an inward grace — we inch ever closer to recognizing him. Some days we do; most often we don't.

In pre-Vatican II days, the celebration of the Eucharist was surrounded by much more ritual than it is today. Fasting, the use of Latin, the physical position of the priest and ringing of the bells at the consecration reminded us that we were a part of something sacred. Today most of these rituals are gone, yet the mystery of Eucharist is as powerful as ever. As mature Catholics we are called to create sacred space around and within ourselves. We remember that each and every one of us is sacred ground. Jesus abides in us and we in him. We may never understand this great mystery, yet we are called to believe. Each Communion is a simple yet profound act of faith.

Here's another reflection on the Eucharist that I found to be very powerful: Some years ago, Pope John Paul II went to Lima, Peru. There he was met by a massive crowd of two million people. Instead of the usual greetings from the President and the Cardinal, two people from a shantytown stepped forward to the microphone. Their names were Irene and Viktor Charo. As the huge crowd went quiet, they begin to speak to the Pope.

"Holy Father, we are hungry, we are sick, we lack work, our children die before their time. Yet we believe, Holy Father, we believe in the God of life.

And we hunger for bread.” Before a hushed crowd, the Pope replied in his best Spanish. “You tell me you hunger for bread.” “Yes, yes”, the millions yelled in reply. “You tell me you hunger for God”, said the Pope and again the crowd swelled with an emphatic “Yes! Yes!” “I want this hunger for God to remain; I want your hunger for bread to be satisfied.”

The Pope then turned to the generals and the wealthy politicians gathered there—many of them devout Catholics—and said very starkly, “I won't simply say share what you have. I will say give it back. Give it back—it belongs to the poor.”

As extraordinary as the Pope's words were that day, Jesus' words about the Eucharist in today's Gospel are even more so. In the sixth chapter of John's Gospel many people were so horrified by the claims Jesus makes for the reality of his presence in the Eucharist, they stopped following him. John clearly links Jesus giving himself for the sake of God's kingdom and our redemption, with the communion we share with Him in every Mass.

When we receive the Risen Christ in communion it's not a symbol of his presence or a sign of his life to which we say “Amen.” It is Christ who hosts us, who gives us himself so that we might be transformed into His image and likeness. In modern language Christ says to us at every Mass, “Here I am, broken and poured out in love for you. Take me. I'm here for you.”

The danger with all gifts, and most especially with this gift, is that we can think it's just for us, an intimate moment between each of us and Christ. It is that, but it's also much more. St Augustine in a sermon on the Eucharist on 9th August 413 wrote that the Mass was about three things: goodness, unity, and charity. Augustine taught that if we were not better people, working for unity and loving each other away from the Eucharist, it fails to achieve its purpose.

Hence, like the Pope in Peru, many people have linked the reception of the Bread of Life here with the giving of bread which sustains life away from here. On average in our world

26,000 die every day of starvation. John F Kennedy observed in 1961, “The only thing standing between us and the elimination of hunger is our desire to see it.” We could feed all the world's poor. We choose not to.

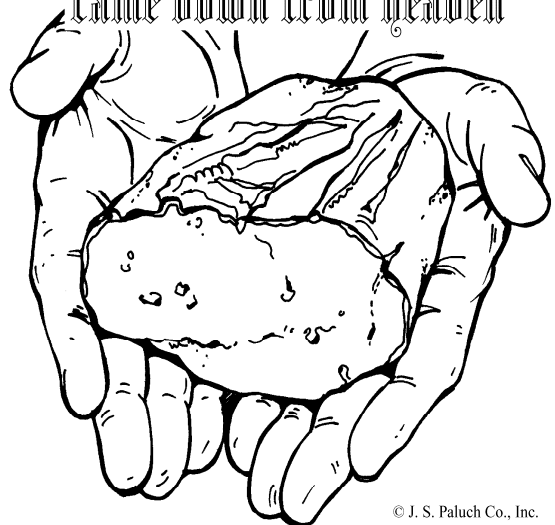
In a talk on the Eucharist, the then Jesuit General, Fr Pedro Arrupe said, “while there is hunger in the world then our Eucharists are incomplete.” By this he didn't mean that when we gather for Mass anything is wrong. Rather he meant that when we gather around this holy table for this sacred meal while people still starve in the world, then something vital is lacking. There's an emptiness.

Yet it's an emptiness that invites us in. The God who comes to us at every Eucharist as real food is the same God that asks, “When I was hungry, did you feed me?” This question says that just as God feeds us, so we too should and can feed each other.

May this feast of the Body and Blood of Christ give us the strength of our convictions. May the real food and drink we provide away from this sacred table prove to the world the power of the Eucharist to change us into a people that are good, unifying, and loving. And may we not just share with the poor from our excesses, but give them back the food that is rightly theirs.

© Richard Leonard SJ

*I am the living bread that
came down from heaven*



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FEAST OF FAITH

The *Corpus Christi* Procession

In the thirteenth century, a Belgian nun by the name of Juliana had a vision: she saw the full moon silvery and radiant except for one dark spot. The meaning of the vision was revealed to her: the moon was the Church's liturgical year, the dark spot a missing feast in honor of the Blessed Sacrament. Today's feast of *Corpus Christi*—the Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ—grew from Juliana's vision.

On this feast, many parishes observe the traditional *Corpus Christi* procession, giving honor to the Eucharist by carrying this greatest treasure out of the safety of our churches and into our streets. At the end of every Mass we are not just let out, we are sent forth, strengthened by the Eucharist, to be the Body of Christ in the world. The *Corpus Christi* procession is the dismissal writ large! We take Jesus with us, not only in our hearts, but carried in our midst and exposed in a monstrance. It is a public profession of faith and a blessing of the world. Jesus walks with us on these streets that we walk day after day, among those who know him but yearn to know him better, and among those who do not know him. The Eucharist is a mystery to be believed, to be celebrated—and to be lived.

—Corinna Laughlin, © Copyright, J. S. Paluch Co.

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Thank you for your generosity!!



Assumption's Cursillo

the fall weekends:

Men's Weekend: Nov. 3-6th 2011

Women's Weekend: Nov. 10-13th, 2011

More information is on the web page: <http://www.oak-cursillo.org/default.aspx>.

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

VBS will start on August 1 thru the 5th. Pre-schoolers through High schoolers are invited to come and join us. Look for registrations at the back of the church or you may call the Parish Office. We are in need of adult volunteers. Please call the rectory office at 352-1537 or slassumption@sbcglobal.net

Faith Formation

Would you like to share your faith journey with the children of Assumption? Faith Formation is searching for volunteers able to teach or assist in class on alternate Sunday's after 9AM Liturgy from 10:30 to 11:30AM. Please call Maureen Moran at the Rectory office (352-1537) for more information regarding Assumption's Faith Formation program.

St. Vincent de Paul

Today as we celebrate the gift of the Body and Blood of Christ let us pray for those who are hungry, malnourished and starving **During the months of April, May, and June**, through your gifts, our conference of St. Vincent de Paul here at Assumption was able to assist both families and individuals, **providing 50 people with food, two households with utility assistance, an individual with furniture items, and two households with rental assistance. Thank You.** Help us help others by referring those in need to our **HELP-LINE at 352-6079.**

Thank you to the out-going members of our Parish Pastoral Council Monica Franco and John Chovanes for the gift of their service to our Parish family. We would to welcome Lisa Nesmith as our new member.



Immaculate
Heart of Mary

**WE REMEMBER AT THE EUCHARIST
Weekly Mass Intentions**

June 25 - July 3



- Saturday 5:00 Frances Weichart +**
- Sunday 7:30 Frank McDonnell +**
9:00 Corazon David +
10:30 Jim & Marvyn Fauria +
12:00 Antonio Bernardo Sr. +
- Monday 7:00 Thanksgiving +**
- Tuesday 7:00 Lena Pantaleoni +**
- Wednesday 7:00 Lope Pallen +**
- Thursday 7:00 Lope Pallen +**
- Friday 7:00 John & Margaret Galego +**
- Saturday 8:00 John Henriques +**
5:00 Michael O'Malley +
- Sunday 7:30 Laura Moniz +**
9:00 Jose Brum +
10:30 Antonio Bernardo Sr +
12:00 Rosario Orpiano +

LITURGICAL MINISTERS:

- Head Lector: Barbara Buckley.....352-9656
- Altar Server Coord. Harry Clyde..... 352-1537
- Head Communion Ministers:
Joe and Mina Riccio352-3506
- Head Usher: Al Weinberger.....895-9900
- Head Greeter: Lisa Nesmith352-1537
- Ministry Scheduler: Barbara Buckley.....352-9656
Susan Hupp.....352-1537
- Teen Confirmation:
Deacon Harry Clyde..... 352-1537
- St. Vincent de Paul
Joe Riccio..... 352-6079
- Pastoral Council:
Paul Carney 635-9473
- School Board:
Leila Towne.....632-0594
- Liturgy Committee
Loretta Fernandes..... 352-1537
- Finance Committee:
Pat Durgin..... 632-4032
- All Saints Skilled Nursing
Merlie Macasieb.....895-5162
- Bishop's Appeal:..... 352-1537
- Tuesdays with Larry:
Larry Graves 352-4777
- Rosary Makers:
Irene Haines 483-7975
- CYO:
Don Ratto 614-2773
- Communion to the Homebound:
Mary Croak..... 352-1537
- Communion to Kindred Hospital:
Al Frates..... 351-2852
- Prayer Chain:
JoMarie Stavosky..... 483-3366
- Knit/Crochet Group
Mary Croak..... 357-7562
- Linens:
Anita De Marais..... 357-9172
- Cursillo
Jennie Gisslow.....635-4143

Assumption Parish Mission Statement

Assumption Parish is a culturally diverse and vibrant Catholic community which strives to grow as followers of Jesus Christ. We do this by accepting the challenge to build a Christ-centered community that draws on the wisdom of our seniors and the energy of our youth. We are committed to Catholic education at various levels. We are nurtured by inspired Liturgy, active and enriching faith formation programs, and inclusive family ministry, all of which enable us to share our gifts of time, talent, treasure and vision with our parish family and surrounding communities.