

FEAST OF CORPUS CHRISTI



The Most Holy Sacrament

CORPUS CHRISTI MASS & PROCESSION

On Thursday, June 7, the **Solemnity of Corpus Christi** according to the *ordo* in Extraordinary Form, St. Peter the Apostle Catholic Church in Hackberry and Our Lady of the Assumption Chapel in Johnson Bayou will hold a Eucharistic Procession immediately following a 6:00 pm Solemn High Mass in Hackberry. Reverend Father Edward Richard will be Celebrant, Reverend Father Rommel Tolentino will be Deacon, and Reverend Father Nathan Long will be Subdeacon. The procession in honor of the **Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ** truly and substantially present in the **Blessed Sacrament** will be offered to thank Almighty God for the great gift of the **Holy Eucharist** and to beseech Him to grant us a **peaceful hurricane season** this year. Everyone is invited to participate. There will be a **reception** in the parish hall after the procession.

Details on the *Corpus Christi* Procession



Why are we having a Eucharistic Procession?

To build up the Kingdom of God. Blessed John Paul II once wrote this with respect to the Holy Eucharist: “The Eucharist is truly a glimpse of heaven appearing on earth. It is a glorious ray of the heavenly Jerusalem which pierces the clouds of our history and lights up our journey” (EE, 19). The presence of the Body and Blood of Our Lord will assist in the sanctification of our neighborhood and parish. We recall the words of Our Lord to the Apostles: There are many things impossible for men; but all things are possible with God (Mt. 19:26).

Does the Church still teach that Eucharistic Processions are important?

Absolutely! Again, the words of Pope John Paul II can guide us: “The devout participation of the faithful in the Eucharistic Procession on the Solemnity of the Body and Blood of Christ [*Corpus Christi*] is a grace from the Lord which yearly brings joy to those who take part in it” (EE, 10). Pope Benedict himself also will be making a *Corpus Christi* procession again this year!

What should I do if I want to participate in the *Corpus Christi* Procession?

The procession will immediately follow the 6:00 pm Solemn High Mass in Extraordinary Form. After Communion, kneel while Fr. Richard, assisted by the sacred ministers and the servers, exposes the Blessed Sacrament. As the sacred ministers and servers depart the church for the streets, remain kneeling until the Blessed Sacrament passes by. Then stand up and simply follow in line *behind* the Blessed Sacrament, the sacred ministers, and the servers for the procession.

What should I wear for the Procession?

The route is 0.8 miles, and it will likely be warm, so wear comfortable walking shoes and light colored clothes. A suggestion is to wear white clothes to reflect the sun’s rays. White is also the liturgical color for *Corpus Christi*. Hats and umbrellas are also appropriate.

May I enter or exit the Eucharistic Procession while it is in progress?

Yes, but be very careful, orderly, and respectful. It is fitting, though, to make the entire course.

What should I do if I live along the route of the *Corpus Christi* Procession?

It is fitting and laudable to decorate your house by putting up a Eucharistic banner (e.g., *I am the living bread which came down from heaven; if anyone eats of this bread, he will live forever* [Jn. 6:51]), or by putting statues of Our Lord, Our Lady, and the Saints in prominent places (e.g., yard, windows, etc.). If you prefer to wait at home for the procession, it is proper to at least genuflect as the Blessed Sacrament passes. If possible, you might consider arranging a place on which to kneel when Our Lord approaches.

What else do I need to know?

First, our involvement in this procession means that we are participating in supernatural realities. As is fitting for such an august occasion, the atmosphere will be festive and one of great joy. At the same time, however, we must be cognizant of the fact that *It is the Lord* (Jn. 21:7)! in Whose presence we shall be. The *Eternal Word* of God has humbled Himself to come among us, and to process through our streets. Consequently, we must imitate Our Lord’s humility by conducting ourselves with the utmost reverence, keeping before our eyes the *fear of the Lord* (Pro. 1:7).

Second, adoration of the Blessed Sacrament is a highly effective type of prayer. Each should form an intention(s) to pray for during the procession.

Finally, you might consider bringing a bottle of water for the walk. The parish will have some on hand in case of an emergency but unfortunately cannot provide enough for everyone.