

Diocese of Burlington
Diocesan Eucharistic Preachers

Fr. Michael Carter, SSE

Meal and Sacrifice: Scriptural Basis for the Eucharist

This presentation traces some of the scriptural foundations for the Eucharist, from Genesis to the Gospels. Using important artwork from the rich heritage of Catholic material culture alongside scriptural citations, it seeks to contextualize the Eucharist as both a Meal and a Sacrifice, while arguing that all of creation points toward this Sacrament which can inspire all the faithful to more fully live in the spirit of Christ's mission.

Dcn. RJ Dourney

A Gift From Our Lord: Irrefutable Proof of Christ's Presence in the Eucharist (Just When You Need It)

You will be led by the Holy Spirit on a path to the beauty and mystery of the Real Presence of Christ in the Eucharist. Christ showed the Apostles "The Way", a path to being in communion with God and experiencing the full glory of His Love. What Jesus did for the Apostles during the Last Supper He now opens to you and me, intending each of us to be able to follow this beautiful path to Him and fully experience His Love through the Eucharist. Come take this journey.

Sr. Paul Mary Dreger, FSE

The Eucharist: The Bread of Life

In the Gospel of John, Jesus said, "I am the bread of life; whoever comes to me will never hunger, and whoever believes in me will never thirst." This presentation explores how the Eucharist is the Source and Summit of our lives as Catholics through the actions of Take, Bless, Break, and Give. (1 hour presentation; can be a stand alone presentation or done in conjunction with the following presentation: *Eucharistic Life: Bread for Others*)

Eucharistic Life: Bread for Others

Pope Benedict XVI said, "when the disciples on the way to Emmaus asked Jesus to stay WITH them, he responded by giving them a much greater gift: through the Eucharist, he found a way to stay IN them." Only when Jesus was present in them did they have the courage to go out and spread the Gospel. This presentation explores how the Eucharist gives us the grace, strength, courage, and sustenance through the actions of Take, Bless, Break, and Give to spread the Gospel message to all nations. (45 minute – 1 hour presentation; given in conjunction with the first presentation: *The Eucharist: The Bread of Life*).

"Theology" of Bread Retreat

This is an expanded version of the above two talks and is structured as a full day (9:00 am – 3:00 pm) retreat which also includes the celebration of Mass and Eucharistic Adoration. This retreat requires the use of a kitchen and ovens as bread baking is involved. Not only will you go home with a freshly baked loaf of bread that you make, but you will have a deeper and greater understanding of the Eucharist, the Bread of Life.

Fr. Henry Furman

The Sacred Heart and the Holy Eucharist

The Sacred Heart devotion begins at Calvary on Good Friday. Water and blood flow from our Lord's pierced side. These are the sources of the Church's sacramental life, especially Baptism and the Holy Eucharist. The power of this devotion is shown by the Centurion who says, "Truly, this was the Son of God." He is the first Gentile to affirm the divinity of Christ. Through the years, devotion to the Sacred Heart has enriched the Church and led to greater devotion to the Holy Eucharist. This presentation will look at the development of this devotion and aims to help people increase their devotion to Jesus and his Eucharistic Heart.

Mary Anne Gummere

The Eucharist: God's Response to a World in Need

What is BELIEF/FAITH? What is the THEOLOGY of the Eucharist? We can get solid answers from the Catechism of the Catholic Church and Scripture. From this intellectual understanding, we can allow the Eucharist to become the force behind our love of God. The world is and has always been in a crisis. Our human powers are unable to provide the solutions. However, God – Jesus, Father, and Holy Spirit – IS the answer. His graces are in superabundance, even today, as God is present today and every day in the Eucharist. May God be honored, glorified, and trusted as THE answer and may we all spread this truth throughout the world.

Fr. Rijo Johnson, S.D.V.

The Holy Eucharist from the Holy Scripture Point of View

This presentation connects the relationship between the seed (The Word) and the fruit (The Holy Eucharist) throughout Scripture, unfolding the mysteries of the Holy Eucharist in a simple way. Just like children, we know the Fruit but never think about how it grows or where it comes from. There are two parts of the Liturgy: the "Liturgy of the Word and the "Liturgy of the Eucharist" – both are explained in the Bible through symbolic words. The Word, which made an invisible God visible in the Holy Eucharist, is explained in the Holy Bible throughout the stories in the Old Testament. Many of us know the stories of the Bible, but the connection between these stories reveals the bond between the branch (the People of God) and the vine, Jesus Christ (John 15). "All (Israelites) ate the same spiritual food, and all drank the same spiritual drink, for they drank from a spiritual rock that followed them, and the rock was the Christ"(1 Corinthians 10:3-4). This presentation helps us find the Rock (Jesus Christ) in the Old Testament on which the Church was built. In Luke 24:44, Jesus explains to His disciples everything written about Him in the law of Moses and in the prophets and psalms. This is where we see the hearts of disciples burning with fire. This is what Jesus wants from us, "I have come to set the earth on fire, and how I wish it were already blazing! (Luke 12:49). To see the Living God in the Holy Eucharist, our eyes (Ephesians 1:18) must be opened (Luke 24:45) from inside with the fire of the Word of God (Jeremiah 23:29).

Patty Lawson

How Can I Repay the Lord for All the Great Good He Has Done For Me? The Eucharist as Thanksgiving

In this presentation, I will focus on the Eucharist as Thanksgiving using Psalm 116 as the framework to reflect on how through the Eucharist, God richly blesses us and our perfect

response is to give thanks to God. My reflection will include my personal witness of encounter with Christ through the Eucharist, and will draw from the treasury of our Catholic faith using Scripture, music, the lives of the Saints, and the Catechism of the Catholic Church. The presentation will be interactive and include activities and prayer responses interspersed throughout.

Dcn. Phil Lawson

Preached Holy Hour

The Eucharistic Revival is meant to strengthen the Church in her Eucharistic life so that it can respond to the “call to share Jesus’ love ‘for the life of the world.’ (Jn 6:51)” ~ *Year of Diocesan Revival*. Dcn. Phil Lawson will be offering a preached holy hour which will include Exposition, a 30 min reflection on the Eucharist, time for silent prayer, all concluding with Benediction. The reflection will include Scripture and stories meant to help enkindle a deeper lived relationship with Jesus Christ in the Eucharist. *Note that this presentation could also be utilized as part of a Mass in the form of an extended homily or as part of a Parish Mission.*

Dcn. Tom Lovett

The Real Presence of Jesus in the Eucharist and Eucharistic Miracles

This presentation will explore the current state of belief in the Real Presence of Jesus in the Eucharist, the current interest in Eucharistic miracles, and the Church’s teaching regarding both. It will include discussion of some of the Eucharistic miracles throughout history as well as current Eucharistic miracles in this region that are offered to help increase personal belief. By the end of the presentation, participants will gain a deeper appreciation of the Real Presence of Jesus in the Eucharist and new ways to further the renewal of Eucharistic Adoration.

Fr. Steven Marchand

Worship in Spirit and Truth: The Unity of Heart and Head in Eucharistic Poetry

When those two disciples of Jesus encountered Him on the Road to Emmaus, they exclaimed of their experience of Christ opening the scriptures to them: “Were not our hearts burning within us?” Through the explanation of scripture, an intellectual activity, the Lord fanned the flames of love and devotion in the hearts of the disciples. He fed them in the Eucharist “in the breaking of the bread”, nourishing both heart and mind.

Meditating upon the mystery of the Eucharist for two thousand years, the Church has produced an incredible amount of hymns and poetry devoted to the mystery of the “Bread and Angels.” Like that teaching from Christ on the road to Emmaus, poetry above all forms of communication and expression has the ability to speak to both heart and mind.

This talk will be an exploration of some of the poems and liturgical texts from across Church history that put into words the sublime truths of the doctrines of the Eucharist and their impact on our hearts and lives in a way that we can easily remember and internalize.

Josh Perry

The Eucharist as a Source of Unity

As Catholics, we profess each and every week in the “one, holy, Catholic, and apostolic Church.” We know this idea of church unity is important since we profess our belief in one Church, but is it possible? It seems that more than ever, people in the Catholic Church are divided in all sorts of ways. If the Church were just a bunch of people coming together on Sunday to worship, have coffee and donuts, and maybe learn a little about the Bible or do something nice for the world...if that’s all that the Church is and unity is dependent on us and our work...then yes – unity is a pipedream – an illusion. But the Church is the Mystical Body of Christ, and through the Church, Christ gifts us the Eucharist – his sacramental presence. Unity comes from Christ. Unity is established in the Eucharist. It’s that simple...and that complicated. This presentation explores how the Church is united through the celebration of the Eucharist and concrete ways that communities live out this Eucharistic unity.

Offering Our Sacrifice of Praise & Thanksgiving: Why Participation in Mass Matters

In liturgy circles, there’s been a lot of ink spilled on the idea of “full, conscious, and active participation in the liturgy” which is a phrase coined at the Second Vatican Council. The faithful are indeed called to a “full, conscious, and active participation in the liturgy.” But what does this mean for us in the pews? This presentation explores what active participation is NOT: it’s not simply about giving a special function or job to do in the Mass. We then look at internal foundational attitudes that help support “full, conscious, and active participation” – surrender, humility, and awe. Finally, we explore the external methods of participation that express those internal attitudes.

A Walk Thru the Eucharistic Prayer

When we think of the Eucharistic Prayer, we often exclusively think of the words of consecration. And while important, if taken alone, the words of consecration (and the very act of consecration) present an incomplete picture of what happens at the Mass. This presentation looks at the text of Eucharistic Prayer III and examines each of the individual parts of the prayer – preface, epiclesis, institution narrative, anamnesis, offering, intercession, and doxology. By examining each part of the prayer and their interconnectedness, we get a fuller sense of the Eucharistic as Presence, Sacrifice, and Communion.