

CORPUS CHRISTI/MEMORIAL DAY 2016

It is literally a gift that cannot be described and although theologians and scholars have tried for centuries to do so, words fall short to relay its deepest meaning and its treasure that is beyond price. The gift of the Holy Eucharist, the sacred Body and Blood of the Savior and the summit and center of our Catholic faith is the REAL presence of the Lord. The Holy Eucharist that is before us was given to us by Him at the Last Supper on the evening before His death and it has been carried down through the many centuries to this very place, this very altar, this very day and the feast we celebrate: Corpus Christi.

Our devotion to the Eucharist and our reception of it—as unworthy as we are—is, in the inspiring words of our beloved Holy Father Pope Francis, *“Not a reward for good behavior, but food for the journey.”*

This weekend is a good time to remind ourselves who it is that we receive, who we come to honor, how we present ourselves to receive Holy Communion, and even our manner of dress when we worship here. In summers past, reason could easily excuse us for wearing summer clothes given the sometimes extreme heat and humidity in our church. But you solved that problem last summer with your generosity. This summer, given the comfort of these walls, we should ask ourselves before we come to church whether how we are dressed is fitting to meet the Lord. While some would say that God does not see nor care what we wear—and that is true—**we** should care since it is an outward sign of our respect and devotion to His presence.

Fittingly, this weekend we also celebrate a national holiday that is also BEYOND WORDS, a day for remembering and honoring those who served us in our nation’s uniforms. No words can properly describe the countless men and women who selflessly stepped forward, and the gratitude we have for their service to our country.

These men and women, many known to us and many gone from us, offered their lives so that the torch of freedom would continue to burn brightly both in our country and around the world.

And so my friends, as we honor the Lord in this Holy Eucharist, that gift beyond measure, we also remember the many who served and the many who continue to serve our country—another gift beyond measure. We must be sure to use our time and our days making certain that both gifts will not have been given in vain.

May God continue to see fit to bless America through all of you!

God love you!