



THE INSTITUTION OF THE EUCHARIST !

This evening, parishes around the world will celebrate the Mass of the Lord’s Supper and will commemorate the institution of the Most Holy Eucharist. Ancient traditions, handed on to us from previous generations, call our attention to an empty tabernacle and to the newly consecrated hosts—and a solemn procession will lead the faithful to adore Christ’s presence in the Eucharist as they gather for prayer at the altar of reposition.

Please pray for the people of your parish and for your priests—may the coming year of the Eucharistic Revival take hold in your parish and provide opportunities for all to deepen their faith.

The Diocese of Camden will continue to provide resources as we, together with the Church throughout the United States, enter into this second year of the Eucharistic Renewal. Please feel free to share your ideas as we journey toward Indianapolis. Much has already been accomplished, but much more remains to be done. May we work together to *know, love and serve* the Lord.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Parish Processions
for Corpus Christi
Sunday

June 10, 2023

Bishop to Lead Procession
along the Camden Waterfront
organized by the
the parishes of Camden City

Parish
Eucharistic Lecture Series
in English, Spanish
and Vietnamese

*Priests, deacons, and laity are
invited to offer presentations*

October through May

Get Baking
Gingerbread Church Contest
Details will be distributed
in June for a competition
that will be held in
mid-November

Retreat Experiences
for Adults
TBD

Days of Recollection for
Musicians
Lectors
Extraordinary Ministers
of the Eucharist
TBD

Diocesan May Crowning
Honoring First Communicants
TBD

Diocesan Delegates will be
sent to the National Eucharistic
Congress in Indianapolis
July 17-21, 2024

THE DIOCESAN EUCHARISTIC CONGRESS



At left, you see Father Patrick Hyde, OP and Father Joseph Jean-Louis both Eucharistic Preachers assigned to the Diocese of Camden for our Diocesan Eucharistic Congress, March 21-25.

More than 3200 faithful Catholics gathered from across South Jersey into the Freedom Mortgage Pavilion

on the Camden Waterfront. They participated in a day filled with prayer, reflection, singing and celebration conducted in both English and Spanish. During the three days prior, events were conducted at our Catholic high schools, an evening for youth and their parents, a Lenten day of reflection for Priests and Deacons, an event for lay leaders in the Latino community and a Day of Recollection for diocesan staff.



Above, CFR Sr. Philomena speaks to the students of Wildwood Catholic and Holy Spirit in the auditorium at Holy Spirit High School as part of the Eucharistic Congress. At right, Father Stephen Robbins processes into the gymnasium at Camden Catholic where Camden and Gloucester Catholic students prayed before the Blessed Sacrament during the Eucharistic Congress.



GINGERBREAD CHURCH CONTEST

One of the parish activities being sponsored by the Diocese of Camden for next fall is a Gingerbread Church Contest. The Church is the House of the Body of Christ and is an important sign to outside world of Christ's Presence. Individual bakers or a team of parish bakers are invited to "build" the Church in one of three categories:

- A. Creating your parish Church in gingerbread.
- B. Creating a world famous Church in gingerbread.
- C. Children 12 and under may submit their own design of a church in gingerbread.

Depending on the response, deanery level competitions may be required in some categories as display space will likely be limited.



We are currently looking for a sponsor, perhaps one of Atlantic City's casinos, to host the event and allow the judges picks to be displayed during the Christmas Season.

Rules and entry requirements will be distributed after Easter.

THE I-RACE FOR VOCATIONS

Just a reminder that the work of encouraging vocations is the work of the whole Catholic Christian Community. At the parish level, the faithful need to be encouraged to pray for those whom God is calling to serve the Church as priests, especially here in the Diocese of Camden. This work is directly related to our appreciation for the Gift of the Eucharist, for without priests to offer the sacrifice of the Mass, there is not Eucharist.

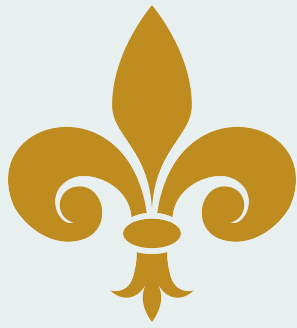
On Sunday, April 30th—the Vocations Office of the Diocese of Camden invites runners, walkers and watchers to the Oval Track at Cooper River Park in Pennsauken for the Annual iRace for Vocations! The event will begin with the celebration of Mass at 1 PM and be followed by a 5K Run or 1 Mile Walk. Music, food and fun activities for people of all ages will be on deck. Meet our seminarians and cheer them on as they compete in the race. All are welcome!



BISHOP'S PRAYER FOR VOCATIONS

Lord Jesus, we ask you to bless the Diocese of Camden with an increase in vocations to the priesthood. We pray that young men from our parishes and families will hear your call and be generous and courageous in their response. May more young men serve you as priests, who teach the faith, preach the Gospel, celebrated the Sacraments and make you present among us through their ministry. Encourage them to embrace the joy-filled and fulfilling life of a diocesan priest. May parents support priestly vocations in their families by prayer and good example. We entrust these prayers through Mary Immaculate, our patroness, hopeful that you will bless our Diocese with more priests in the near future, who live and reign, for ever and ever.

Amen.



**DIOCESAN
EUCHARISTIC
CONGRESS
MARCH 25, 2023**

Bishop Sullivan would like to thank the Eucharistic Revival Planning Committee and all who supported the Eucharistic Congress.

Parishes are asked to develop their own local planning ER team and submit the names and email addresses for team members to the **Bishop's Office no later than May 10th.**

Pastors with their parish ER planning teams are to present a plan for their parish's Celebration of the second year of the Eucharistic Revival by **Friday, June 8th.** The calendar of events should run from June 10, 2023 through May 30, 2024

THE SACRIFICE OF THE MASS

When we speak of the Sacrifice of the Mass, in no way do we as Catholics believe that Christ continues to be crucified physically or die a physical death in heaven over and over again. However, we do believe that the Mass does participate in the everlasting sacrifice of Christ.

First, one must not separate the sacrifice of our Lord on the cross from the events which surround it. The sacrifice of our Lord is inseparably linked to the Last Supper. Here Jesus took bread and wine. Looking to St. Matthew's text (26:26ff), He said over the bread, "Take this and eat it. This is my body"; and over the cup of wine, "This is my blood, the blood of the covenant, to be poured out in behalf of many for the forgiveness of sins." The next day, on Good Friday, our Lord's body hung on the altar of the cross and His precious blood was spilt to wash away our sins and seal the everlasting, perfect covenant. The divine life our Lord offered and shared for our salvation in the sacrifice of Good Friday is the same offered and shared at the Last Supper. The Last Supper, the sacrifice of Good Friday, and the resurrection on Easter form one saving, life-giving event.



Second, one must have a nuanced understanding of time. One must distinguish chronological time from kairotic time as found in Sacred Scripture. In the Bible, *chronos* refers to chronological time—past, present, and future—specific deeds which have an end point. *Kairos* or kairotic time refers to God's eternal time, time of the present moment which recapitulates the entire past as well as contains the entire future. Therefore, while our Lord's saving event occurred chronologically about the year AD 33, in the kairotic sense of time it is an ever-present reality which touches our lives here and now. In the same sense, this is why through Baptism we share now in the mystery of Christ's passion, death, and resurrection, a chronological event that happened almost 2,000 years ago but is still efficacious for us today.

With this in mind, we also remember that our Lord commanded, as recorded in the Gospel of St. Luke (22:14ff) and St. Paul's First Letter to the Corinthians (11:23ff), "Do this in remembrance of me." Clearly, our Lord wanted the faithful to repeat, to participate in, and to share in this sacramental mystery. The Last Supper event which is inseparably linked to Good Friday (and the resurrection) is perpetuated in the Holy Mass for time eternal.

"If Christ Jesus, our Lord and God, is himself the high priest of God the Father; and if he offered himself as a sacrifice to the Father; and if he commanded that this be done in commemoration of himself, then certainly the priest, who imitates that which Christ did, truly functions in place of Christ" (*Letters* 63:14 [A.D. 253])."

Cyprian of Carthage