

How I began to believe that the Eucharist really is Jesus

By: Tom Hoopes

It actually was Bob Dylan who got me started ...

When friends told me in college that they believed that the Eucharist at Mass is not bread anymore but really Jesus Christ, truly present, I didn't understand them. "You mean you believe the bread recalls Christ at his Last Supper, right?" I said. No, they said. They didn't believe there was any bread there at all, after the consecration. There was just Jesus. He only *looked* like bread. Once I understood what they were saying, I thought they were crazy. In all my years attending the Catholic church, I had never been taught anything of the kind.

So first, they had to convince me the Church actually believes this.

Today, the Catechism exists, and it makes this doctrine very clear. But there was no Catechism back then — and so no simple way to find out if you were hearing real Church doctrine or someone's peculiar ideas. I think they looked it up in Ludwig Ott's book to prove it to me. Whatever they did, I begrudgingly believed that the "Real Presence" was a real thing. Stuff we Catholics did made more sense after that — genuflecting before getting into the pew, the priests cleaning the sacred vessels, and the many rules governing who can receive Communion. Once I was convinced that the Real Presence was a real doctrine, however, I still thought it was crazy. Why would God want to take on the appearance of bread? Why would he want to be eaten?

Bob Dylan helped me understand.

After losing my faith in high school, I only became open to Christianity again because of Bob Dylan. I had bought all of his albums, and loved them all — even the Christian ones.

In the title song from his album *Saved*, Dylan concisely summed up his Protestant beliefs this way: "I was blinded by the devil / Born already ruined / Stone-cold dead / As I stepped out of the womb / By His grace I have been touched / By His word I have been healed / By His hand I've been delivered / By His Spirit I've been sealed / I've been saved / By the blood of the Lamb." And then he repeated it: "Saved, by the blood of the Lamb." I bought what he said — to a point. I saw how Dylan could be "born already ruined." We are all connected by blood to Adam, and so his decision to align himself with sin defined me just as one grandfather's move from Kansas to Arizona and the other grandfather's move from El Salvador to Mexico. But how could Jesus' blood get from Palestine two millennia ago to save Bob Dylan, or me, today? It does so spiritually, the Protestants believe. But I couldn't believe in that. God did things in a much more natural way than that in every other instance I knew of. If God wanted the blood of Jesus to reverse what I had inherited from the blood of Adam, I thought, that blood had to actually be in me.

And that's when I got it.

"Unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink his blood, you do not have life with in you," Jesus said, "For my flesh is true food and my blood is true drink." He scared people with that kind of talk, reports John— but he meant it. The apostles must have been relieved when they realized the role bread and wine would play in this ingestion of blood. St. Paul described it a couple decades after the Last Supper, in about the year 53. That was it. You were saved by the blood of Jesus directly — not spiritually. Even Bob Dylan seemed to acknowledge it later in his career, when, after leaving his Christian sect, he sang, "I never could learn to drink that blood and call it wine."

Scriptures filled out the picture for me. One in particular.

Lots of Scriptures suddenly take on new life, when you see that God is preparing the way for the Eucharist: Melchizedek's bread and wine, the Manna in the desert, the Passover Lamb and the multiplication of the loaves.

But one made the most sense to me for the first time: The supper at Emmaus. In the story, Jesus meets two of his disciples after his death. They don't recognize him until He breaks bread — then He disappears. That never sounded real to me. Again, I didn't like spiritualizing Jesus. He did earthy miracles, with water and spit and mud. He didn't do magician's tricks like vanishing into thin air. But I was willing to admit he would do something odd like that if he was trying to communicate something earthy. But what was he trying to communicate? The Eucharist makes it clear: I am no longer with you in this form (my body) but in this form (bread). And so, I believed. And still do.

Schedule of Events:**Tuesday, June 25**

7:30 a.m. Confessions

8 a.m. Mass

5:30-8:30 p.m. Bible Camp

Wednesday, June 26

7:30 a.m. Confessions

8 a.m. Mass

5:30-8:30 p.m. Bible Camp

Thursday, June 27

7:30 a.m. Confessions

8 a.m. Mass

5:30-8:30 p.m. Bible Camp

Friday, June 28

8 a.m. Mass

5:30-8:30 p.m. Bible Camp

Saturday, June 29

4 p.m. Vigil Mass

Sunday, June 30

7:30 a.m. Confessions

8 a.m. mass

9:30 a.m. Confessions

10 a.m. Mass



MASS INTENTIONS



For the Week of June 25, 2019 – June 30, 2019

8:00 A.M. – Tuesday June 25

All Donors and Benefactors of St. Ann Church & in Memory of:

Parishioners of St. Ann, Rai & Thaddeus Pellegrin, Wilbert Dupre Sr

8:00 A.M. – Wednesday June 26

All Donors and Benefactors of St. Ann Church & in Memory of:

Parishioners of St. Ann

8:00 A.M. Thursday June 27

All Donors and Benefactors of St. Ann Church & in Memory of:

Parishioners of St. Ann, Ernest & Christine Naquin, Rev. Carl J. Schutten

8:00 A.M.-Friday, June 28

All Donors and Benefactors of St. Ann Church & in Memory of:

Parishioners of St. Ann

4:00 P.M. Saturday, June 29

All Donors and Benefactors of St. Ann Church & in Memory of:

Parishioners of St. Ann, Loyd Savin, Eldred & MayBelle Ellender, Wilbert & Elsie Hebert,

Linda Ann Hebert, Salome H. Matherne, Matthew S. Matherne, Peter W. Hebert,

Samuel Dominic Hebert, Michael Lee McGee, Wayne G. Cancienne, Wilbert Dupre Sr.,

Kenneth J. Breaux, Debra A. Dupre, Jerry & Matthew Arceneaux,

Keri Lynn Niette, Albert Pinell Sr., Mr. & Mrs. Edward Chauvin & family,

Mr. & Mrs. Curtis Olivier & family, Eric, Joel & Frank Rogers, Melanie Boquet,

Ruth Pinell, Clinton & Wilma Picou, Dolores Viteaux, Cynthia Charpentier, Melvin Hebert, Cecil Fabre

8:00 A.M. - Sunday, June 30

All Donors and Benefactors of St. Ann Church & in Memory of:

Parishioners of St. Ann, Lawrence & Eula Mazerac, Rhea P. Voisin & Eddie Voisin Jr.,

Sue Bueche, Mary Eve & Vayne Bascle, Lionel Bascle family, Arthe' Breaux family, Arthur Lee Fabre,

Mr. & Mrs. Bernard Fabre, Mr. & Mrs. Irby Petit, Aubrey Lee Boquet, Cindy R. Broussard,

Vin & Joyce LeBlanc family, Gilbert & Rita Bergeron family, Mindy & Jody Pellegrin (WA),

Sterling Authement Jr.(B), Clyde Pitre, Clyde, Elizabeth & Curtis Lirette, Matthew & David Naquin Sr,

Andrew Sr., Edna, Elie, Morris, Bruce Pitre, Special intention, Marie Gaston, Ernestine Pitre,

Wilma, Eugene & John Dusenbery, Veronica Trahan, Terry Lirette, Amelie Thibodaux,

Ella Mae Guidry, Jesse Fanguy Sr. Ann Hebert, A.J. Theriot, Erous & Eric Eschete

10:00A.M. - Sunday, June 30

All Donors and Benefactors of St. Ann Church & in Memory of:

*Parishioners of St. Ann, Geraldine Dupre, Herbert, Celina, Joyce, Deborah & Ronald Belanger, Rosie & Richard Lafont
Living & Deceased Members of the Naquin, LaJaunie, LeBoeuf & Lapeyrouse Families,
Ruth Pinell, Maxine Christoffersen, Daniel Toups, Barbara Prosperie, Barry Aucoin Sr., Julienne Domangue
Norris & Diana Bourg*

MEMORIALS FOR THE WEEK OF June 23, 2019

The Altar Bread is in memory of *Mr. & Mrs. Eldred Hebert Sr.* requested by Wayne & Judy Duhon.

Family Vacation Bible Camp 2019:

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

St. Ann's VBS this year will be June 25-28 from 5:30-8:30 p.m.

The Theme will be "Come to the Table"

ALL AGES ARE WELCOME! Meal will be served each night!

STEWARDSHIP OF TREASURE

June 15 & 16: Envelopes: \$ 2981.00+ Loose: \$ 508.00+ \$536.29 (Online)

Thank you for your generosity!

Summer Kids' Nights:

K-5th graders are welcomed to attend!

Fun, food, and games!

Monday July 8th 6:30-8p.m.

Junior High Nights:

6th - 8th graders! Bring a friend!

Saturday July 20th

6:30-8p.m.

NEW MINISTER SCHEDULES:

All new minister schedules are available in church!

INSTALLATION MASS:

**Fr. Cody will be installed as Pastor of St. Ann Church on
July 7, 2019 at the 10 a.m. Mass by Bishop S. Fabre.**

A reception will follow in the parish center.

If you would like to help with this celebration
please attend a meeting on Monday June 24 at 6:30 p.m.

CHURCH CLEANING: Week of June 30 – Sam & Regina, Debbie, Doris, Stella

MASSES	MINISTERS OF THE EUCHARIST	COMMENTATOR/ LECTOR	ALTAR SERVERS	USHERS
<u>June 29 & 30</u>				
SATURDAY 4:00P.M.	Marianne, Brian Alton, Yvonne	Connie, Randolph	Tyler, Grace	Steve H., Jan
SUNDAY 8:00A.M.	Christine, Patsy Jesse, Dana	Nick, Doug	Lee	Jesse, Paula, Peggy
10:00A.M.	David, Melissa, Mindy, Cindy D.	Sofie, Ashleigh	Henry, Kailey, Hailey, Brianna	Kenneth, Joseph

