

# TIME TRAVEL

FEAST OF CORSPUS CHRIST 2021



Original reflection By Rev. Erik Arnold, modified by Javier Plumey

This week on Enkindle Family Scripture Reflections, we're talking about time travel! Wait, I thought we were talking about the Bible readings for Mass this Sunday, the feast of Corpus Christi? We are! And that includes time travel! I know. It doesn't make sense yet, but it will in just a few minutes.

So, let's start our reflection with one super-important word in the first reading today from the Book of Deuteronomy:

## Remember!

*Moses said to the people: "**Remember** how for forty years now the LORD, your God, has directed all your journeying in the desert,*

*Deuteronomy 8:2*

There's lots of different times we're asked to remember something:

- Did you remember to clean your room?
- Did you remember to do your homework?
- Did you remember to brush your teeth?

But when God asks us to remember something, it's different, it's even more important because it's a different kind of remembering. Here's what I mean: When God asks us to remember something, it's not just remembering to do something, or remembering something that happened once.

Here's where the time travel comes in. (Cue the time travel music please!)

There's a special sacred, holy kind of remembering that doesn't just remember what God did once, but actually takes us into the event. It's a special kind of remembering in which God opens up a spiritual door that allows us to take part in, to participate in, to share in the very thing we are remembering!

So, here's the example for today's special feast of Corpus Christi, the Body and Blood of Christ:

*At the Last Supper, Jesus took the bread and the wine, he blessed them, offered them to the Father, then gave them to his disciples to eat and drink and said, "Do this in remembrance of me."*

So, he told his apostles at the Last Supper, I want you to remember what I'm doing, but don't just remember it in your head, **remember it by doing it!**

And here's where it gets amazing! When we do this special sacred, holy, kind of remembering at Mass, a door opens up and we are taken to the Last Supper itself.

So now you're thinking, "This sounds too amazing to be true!" But it is true. Listen to what St. Paul says in the second reading today about this special kind of "holy remembering" that makes us time travelers to the Last Supper of Jesus:

*Brothers and sisters: The cup of blessing that we bless, is it not a participation in the blood of Christ? The bread that we break, is it not a participation in the body of Christ?*

When St. Paul says "participation" he means, aren't we really sharing in the Body and Blood of Jesus? Aren't we really taking part in and receiving the same gift the Apostles did at the Last Supper? So we really get to travel in time to the Upper Room, to share in the Last Supper with Jesus.

Now, for our older listeners, here's the fancy way the Catechism puts it:

***1363** In the sense of Sacred Scripture the memorial is not merely the recollection of past events but the proclamation of the mighty works wrought by God for men. 184 In the liturgical celebration of these events, they become in a certain way present and real.*

*In the Eucharist Christ gives us the very body which he gave up for us on the cross, the very blood which he "poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins." 188*

When we celebrate Mass, when we remember in our actions what Jesus asked us to remember and do, a special spiritual door opens up for us that lets us travel in time, to really be at and share in, the Last Supper, to receive the same exact gift that Jesus gave the Apostles.

Now, when this happens at Mass, the priest still looks like the same priest at your parish (he doesn't suddenly look like and dress like Jesus), and the church still looks like your church (it doesn't look like the Upper Room) and the bread still looks like bread, even though it really is Jesus. God lets those things still look the same, maybe because he doesn't want to overwhelm us. But even though what we see with our human eyes doesn't change, we know that we really are sharing in the gift of Jesus 'Body and Blood, we really are there at the Last Supper.

And it's super important to remember this, like Moses says in the first reading today. Because sometimes it's hard to pay attention at Mass. Sometimes you're distracted. Sometimes the homily isn't super interesting. Sometimes the music isn't very good. Wait a minute did the priest just say that

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**“God lets those things still look the same, maybe because he doesn’t want to overwhelm us.”**

sometimes the homily isn’t super interesting, maybe even boring? Yeah. I said it. ‘Cause it’s true. But remember, we don’t come to Mass only because the homily is good. We want that, the priest wants that, he really does, but sometimes it doesn’t happen.

And we don’t come to Mass just because the music is really great. We want that too. But sometimes it’s not. And we don’t come just because people are really friendly. We want that too, but sometimes it doesn’t happen.

And sometimes all of those things are really good, but we’re just really distracted, and we find it hard to pay attention. And then sometimes we help our brother or our sister to not pay attention by distracting them. And then our parents give us that look in the pew, when they lean out and turn toward us, and their face says, *“What are you doing?”*

So, I share all of this to remind you that the most important reason we come to Mass is to remember the Last Supper. Not just remember in the same way you remember to brush your teeth or make your bed, but that special, holy, supernatural way of remembering that opens a door for us to actually be there at the Last Supper, to share in it, to participate in it.

Jesus opens that door for us at each and every Mass. But we have to choose to walk through it. And when we do, we get to be time travelers, who have the amazing blessing of actually sharing in the Last Supper!

And he gives us this gift to make us more like him. Remember, you are what you eat! Jesus feeds us with His Body and Blood so that we have the supernatural power to love like Jesus, to forgive like Jesus, to think and act like Jesus. Where do you most need that power in your life right now?

## **Let us pray!**

Lord Jesus, please help us to walk through that door, to share completely in your Last Supper, to share completely in the gift of your Body and Blood. Help us especially when we are distracted, when we’re tired, when the homily or the music isn’t very good, help us to remember, to remember in that special, holy way, that takes us into your Last Supper. Lord Jesus, let this change the whole way we go to Mass so that as we feed on your Body and Blood, we might become more like you. Please hear our prayer, and answer it with your power, for you live and reign forever and ever. Amen!

ENKINDLE (+) FAMILY REFLECTIONS

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## FAMILY DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Use the following questions to help you go deeper into the reflection. Feel free to modify the questions as you wish, and if you're doing this with a group or your family, give each person time to think and have a chance to respond before moving on. Focus on one or two of the questions—you don't need to get through them all. If you have not read the reflection, or prefer to listen to the podcast first, use the QR code on the left to take you directly to the reflection. Use the QR code on the right to take you to the readings text.

1 If you could pick any place and time to visit, where and when would you go, and why?

*Ideas for discussion: check out the dinosaurs, see if we ever get flying cars, watch the birth of Jesus*

2 What's the oldest memory you can remember?

*Ideas for discussion: maybe it was a time playing with an older sibling, or a particular place like your crib or a family member's house*

3 Can you think of a time when you had a hard time paying attention at Mass? What happened?

*Ideas for discussion: you fell asleep, a child was crying, you had something else on your mind, someone nearby smelled funny*

4 What are some things you can do before, during, or after Mass to help you remember how sacred and important the Mass is?

*Ideas for discussion: how we prepare for Mass, dressing up for Mass, trying to catch all of the little details during Mass, praying before and after Mass, sit near the musicians, follow along using a missal*

## ACTIVITY IDEAS

1 Look online for paintings of the Last Supper

2 Make a day trip of to a notable or historical church (or more than one) such as a basilica or shrine



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