

Church Teaching on the Eucharist and How to Talk About it



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St. Stephen's Mystagogy



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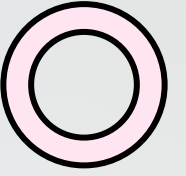
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Catechism on the Eucharist – 31 pages



"So, what
do you
mean by
Eucharist?"





Eucharíst
(Greek)

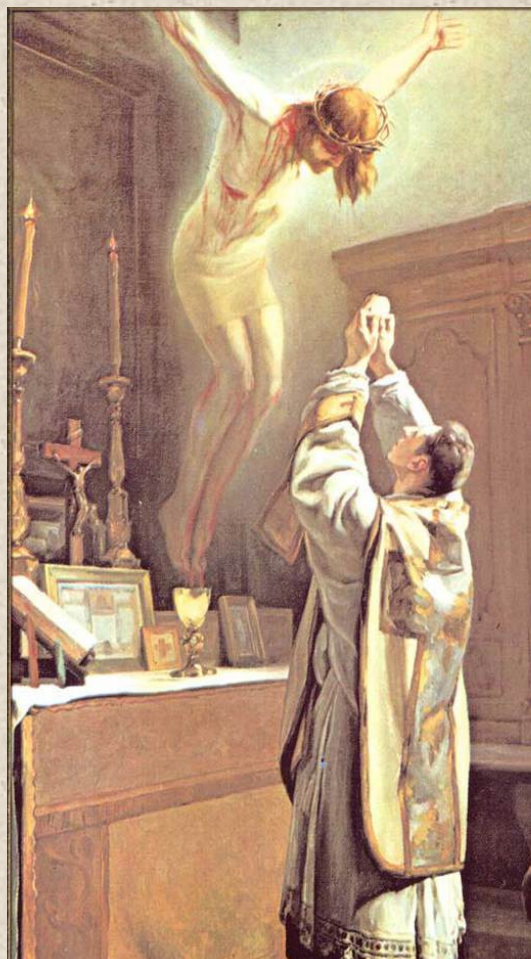
“Well”

+

“Grateful”

(That is, do
gratitude as best
as you can.)





The Holy Sacrifice

Communion
(Greek) Com = "With"
Unus = "Oneness"

We mean ALL the names we give it.



Holy Mass
"Ite missa est."



The Lord's Supper

Because it reenacts the Last Supper. But also it is the Divine Initiative. He calls, He offers, He serves, He is the food.

The Breaking of the
Bread — indicates we share with
each other



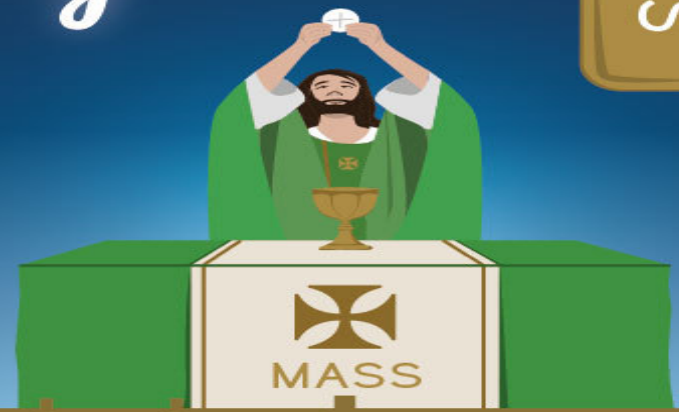
The Paschal Feast

“Our
BLESSING
CUP is a
communion with
the Blood of
Christ.”



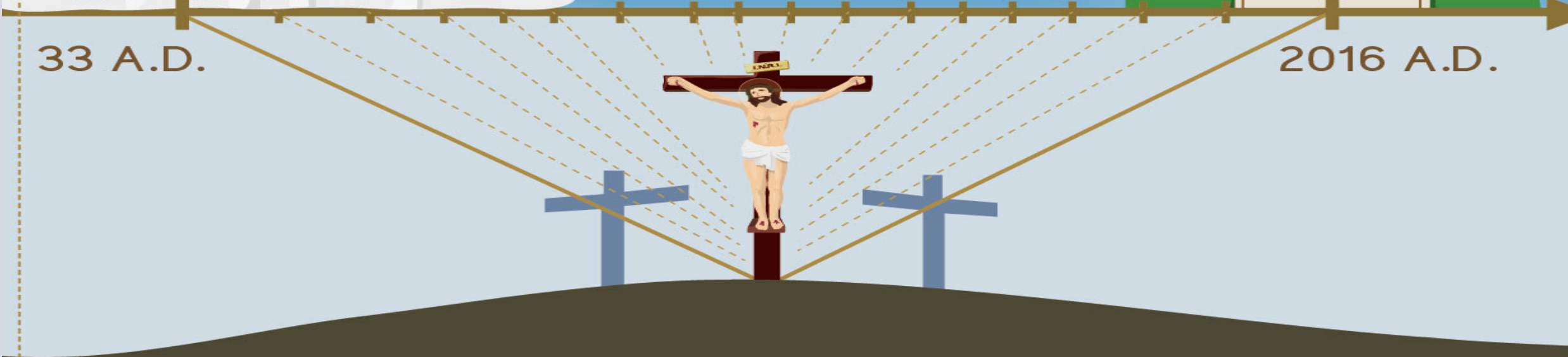
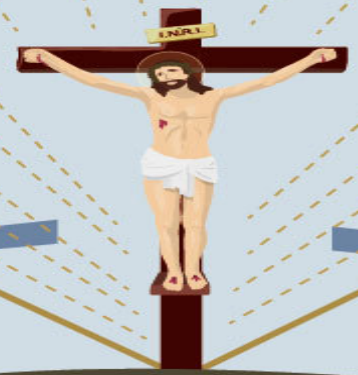
A Re-presentation of the Paschal mystery

ANAMNESIS



33 A.D.

2016 A.D.



**"I am the bread of
life." - John 6:35**



“The Bread of Life”

**Because it contains
the stuff of Divinity,
Supernatural Grace,
the life of God which
we lost through
Original Wound.**



The “Life of God” manifests in us as:

WISDOM

UNDERSTANDING

COUNSEL

FORTITUDE

KNOWLEDGE

PIETY

FEAR OF GOD



“Okay, but you don’t really mean you’re eating the actual body of Jesus, right?”





**We believe
that we are eating
the substance
of Jesus' body.**

**You have to understand
Substance vs.
Accidents**



TRANSUBSTANTIATION
THE CHANGE IN SUBSTANCE OF
BREAD AND WINE INTO THE BODY
AND BLOOD OF CHRIST WITHOUT A
CHANGE IN ACCIDENTS.





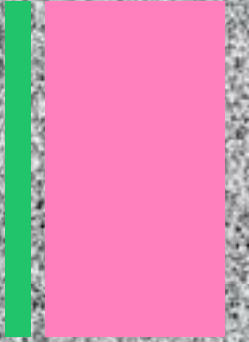
Ousia – “Substance” or “Essence”:

“The thing about
a thing which
makes it that
thing and no
other thing.”



What is “lion-ness”?

+ Is this a lion?



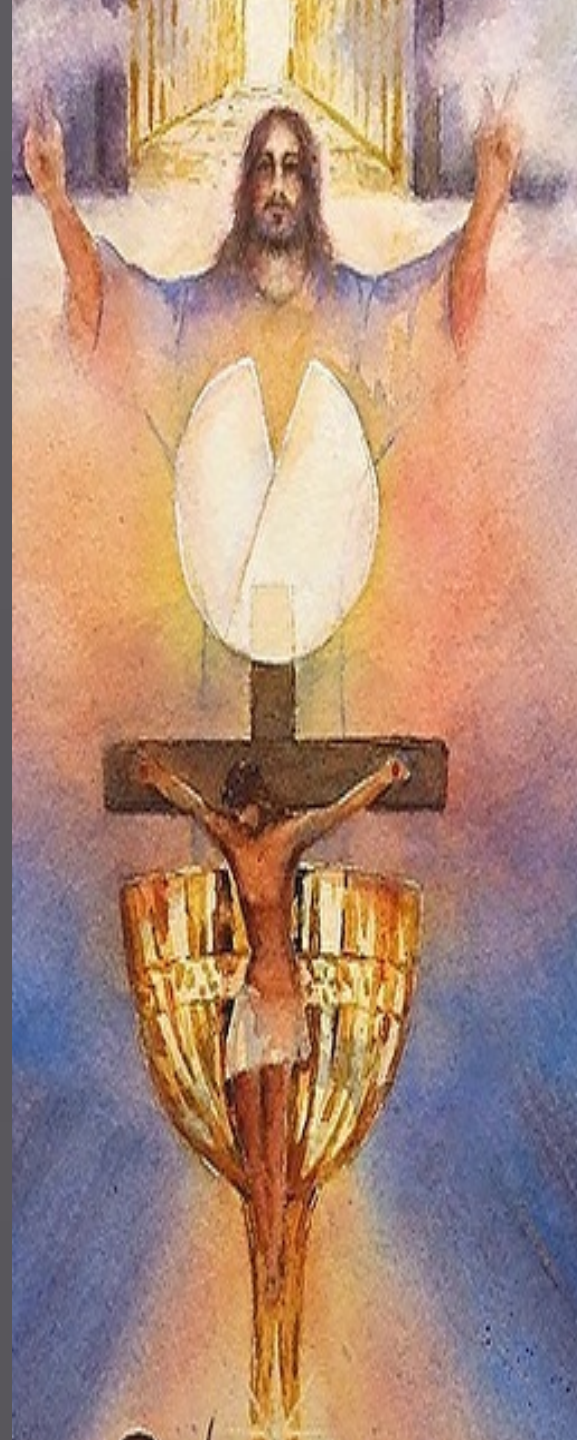
+ If I cut his tale off is he still a lion?



Is the tail a lion?


No, the tail is an ACCIDENT.

- The Eucharist will continue to weigh the same amount, and taste the same way, and look the same way, with the same color.
 - All those things, all the appearances remain the same, but the substance is changed.
- It's important to remember that after the Consecration, which are the words that change the bread and wine into the Body and Blood of Christ, there is no longer bread.
- There's no bread left, and there is no wine – it has become Christ, but the appearances of bread and wine remain.
 - The substance changes, but the accidents, or the appearances, are kept.



**“So, how
exactly
does it
work?”**

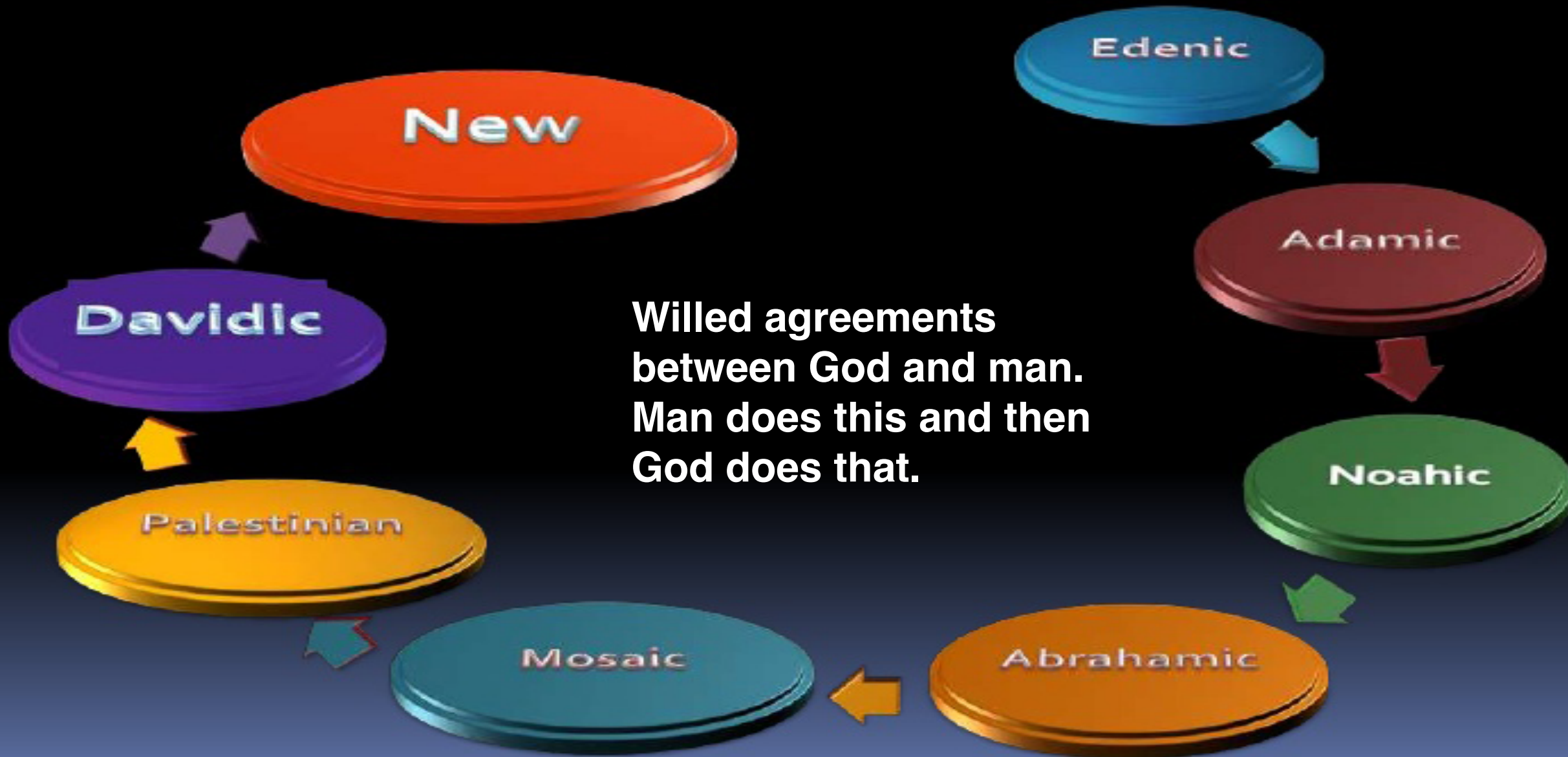


A priest in white vestments is performing a ritual. He has his hands clasped in prayer, and a white host is balanced on his forehead. The background is a dark, textured wall. In the foreground, there are lit candles and a chalice. The text "We don't know how it happens." is overlaid on the top left, and "But we do know WHEN it happens." is overlaid on the right side.

We don't know
how it happens.

But we do
know
WHEN it
happens.

Eight Covenants of the Bible



When God's people present the matter and form of the Eucharist, the Holy Spirit transforms it into Christ's Body and Blood.

The **MATTER** of the Eucharist

- Bread and wine



The **FORM** of the Eucharist
(An ordained priest saying)

“This is my Body.”

“This is the cup of my blood.”

Why Bread and Wine...



“...they continue also to signify the goodness of creation.”

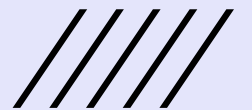
In the Offertory we give thanks to the Creator for bread and wine, fruit of the "work of human hands," but above all as "fruit of the earth" and "of the vine" - gifts of the Creator.”

Give us this
day our “superessential”
Bread...



The original Greek translates to "Give us today our *epiousion* bread." Which has no clear definition.

When translating from Koine Greek to Latin in AD 382 St. Jerome used "quotidianum" which is where we get "daily" from in the English.



Current Catholic consensus is that it refers to the Manna of the New Covenant.²⁴

The “New Covenant”


“Let us
(Eucharist)
to the Lord
our God.”

“It is right
and just.”





“What do you
get out of it?”



**“What material food
produces in our bodily
life, Holy Communion
wonderfully achieves
in our spiritual life.”
CCC1392**

**HE HIMSELF BORE
OUR SINS IN HIS
BODY ON THE
CROSS, SO THAT
WE MIGHT DIE TO
SIN AND LIVE TO
RIGHTEOUSNESS;
FOR BY HIS
WOUNDS YOU
WERE HEALED.**

1 Peter 2-24



"The Eucharist makes the Church. Through it Christ unites them to all the faithful in one body - the Church." ccc1396





“There is no surer pledge or dearer sign of this great hope in the new heavens and new earth in which righteousness dwells, than the Eucharist.”



**“Cool.
Can I have
some?”**



**Yes!
Just a few
administrative
details...**

“The Holy Eucharist completes Christian initiation.”

It's a **public, corporate** act of the Church community. ○

It's our family meal.

It's Jesus' gift to His friends.





Tinteretto's *Last Supper*

The Eucharist is
the source and
summit of the
Christian life.

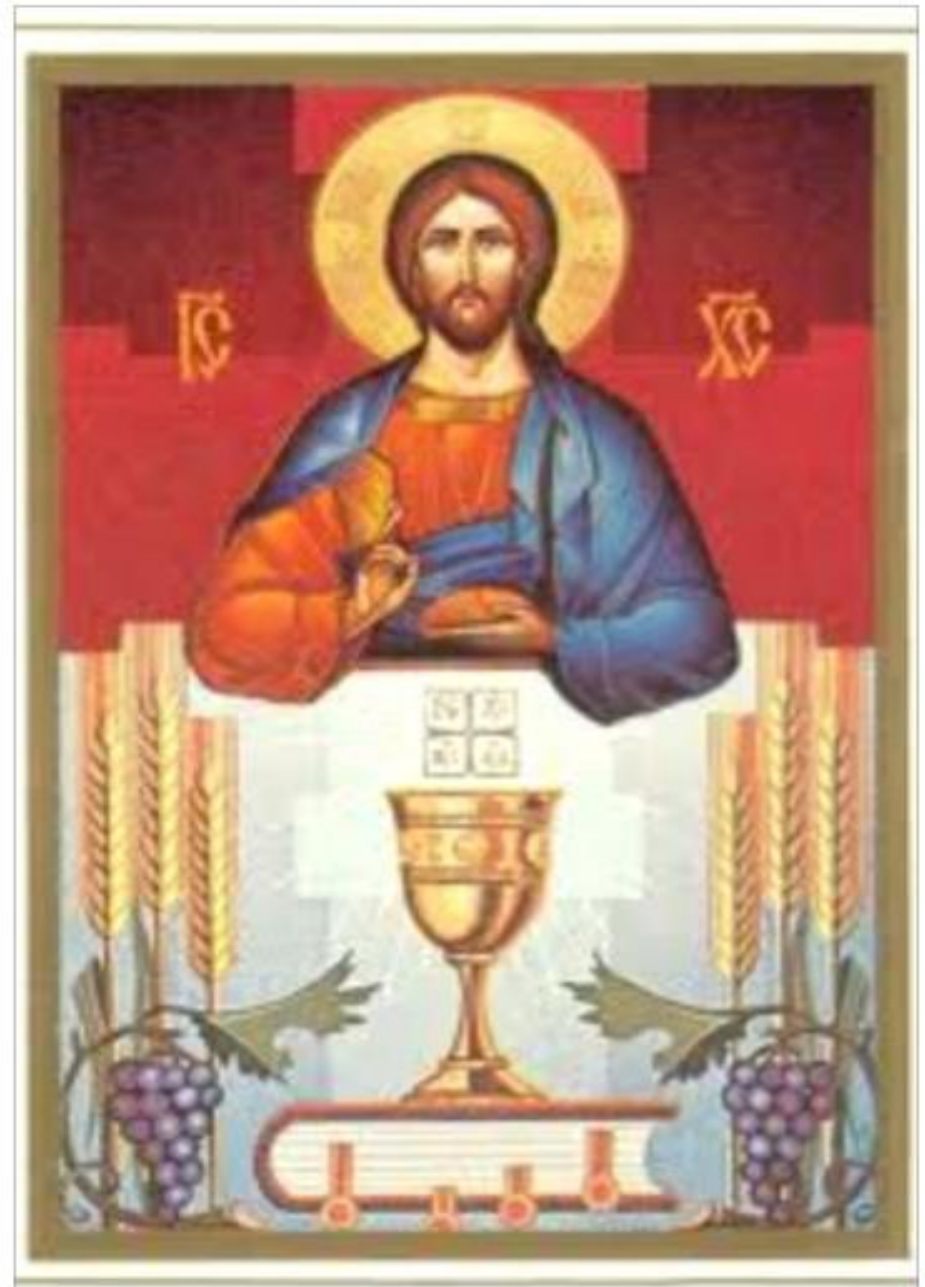
*Catechism of the Catholic
Church 1324*



Jesus is
the font of
all grace.

There is no
greater
experience
in Christian
life.

- Source and summit of Christian life (CCC 1324)
- "Sacrament of sacraments" – all others ordered to it as their end (CCC 1211)
- All church ministries and works bound up and oriented to it (CCC 1324)
- "sum and summary of our faith" (CCC 1327)



ST JUSTIN MARTYR

Because this bread and wine have been eucharisted, no one may take part in it unless he believes that what we teach is true, has received baptism for the forgiveness of sins and new birth, and lives in keeping with what Christ taught."





To respond to this invitation we must *prepare ourselves* for so great and so holy a moment.

Anyone conscious of a grave sin must receive the sacrament of Reconciliation before coming to communion.