NEWSLETTER
NOVEMBER 2026 VOL. CXX NO. 135

Come, Lord Jesus!

Spiritual Insights
Reports
Formation
Program Updates



More Grateful, More Present; The Eucharist Within Us

The word Eucharist comes from the Greek eucharistia, meaning "thanksgiving." As Mass is celebrated, our gratitude is gathered into Christ's own thanksgiving to the Father, and in Holy Communion we receive Christ himself. Through the Eucharist, we are drawn into deeper communion with him and transformed by his grace.

In order to intensify the power of the divine presence within us and our awareness of it, we must nourish ourselves with the glorified flesh of the divine Lamb of God. Let us recall Jesus' words: *"Amen, amen, I say to you, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink his blood, you do not have life within you. Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood has eternal life... For my flesh is true food, and my blood is true drink... Just as the living Father sent me and I have life because of the Father, so also the one who feeds on me will have life because of me"* (Jn 6: 53-55,57). Our quotes focus on the divine life that Jesus received from the Father and communicates to us when we eat his glorified flesh in Holy Communion.

This is the very life – divine life – that Jesus received from the Father. It is an elevation to a new sphere of being. What a marvelous reality! This is how we increase and intensify the divine life we received at Baptism. Just as it is absolutely necessary for us to eat and drink to nourish and maintain our natural life after we are born, so too, Jesus insists of the necessity to nourish our supernatural life after we are re-born by eating his glorified flesh and drinking his blood. These passages help us to understand Jesus' words, *"I am the living bread that came down from heaven; whoever eats this bread will live forever; and the bread that I will give is my flesh for the life of the world"* (Jn 6:51). Jesus also reveals that this divine food effects a continuous intimate union with him: *"Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood remains in me and I in him"* (Jn 6:56).

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November
Every Thursday Memorial Mass for the enrollees in the CLJ!
Memorial Burse

November 1
Solemnity of All Saints

November 2
The Commemoration or All the Faithful Departed

November 8
32nd Sunday in Ordinary Time

November 15
33rd Sunday in Ordinary Time

November 22
The Solemnity of Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe

November 29
First Sunday of Advent Cycle B begins!

"Eucharist" means *Thanksgiving*

The Eucharist is the source and summit of the Christian life. The term "Eucharist" originates from the Greek word *eucharistia*, meaning thanksgiving.

We are so fortunate to understand how Jesus would bring this marvelous promise about. This was his way of remaining in intimate interpersonal communion with us after he would be glorified. This is the full meaning and fulfillment of the Old Testament Passover event when the Chosen people had to slaughter the lamb in sacrifice, roast and eat it. (Ex 12). The sprinkling of its blood would save them from death. John the Baptist was sent by God to announce to the world the one who would fulfill that role in the New Covenant. When he saw Jesus coming toward him, he proclaimed, *"Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world"* (Jn 1:29). Just before Jesus sacrificed himself for us, he solved the mystery of how it would be possible for his prediction to be realized at the last supper.

"While they were eating, Jesus took bread, said the blessing, broke it, and giving it to his disciples said, 'Take and eat; this is my body'. Then he took a cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them saying, 'Drink from it, all of you, for this is my blood of the covenant, which will be shed on behalf of many for the forgiveness of sins'" (Mt 26: 26-28). Jesus commanded his disciples to *"...Do this in remembrance of me" (1 Cor 11: 24).*

This is what Jesus empowered his apostles to do. And this is what ordained priests and bishops as apostolic successors do at every Mass: repeat what Jesus commanded them to do, change bread and wine into the body and blood of Jesus, the glorified Lamb of God, to nourish our souls with divine life and spiritual energy for us to love and serve. This divine food is a stipulated requirement by Jesus for us to receive divine life: "Jesus said to them, *'Amen, amen, I say to you, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink his blood, you do not have life within you."* (Jn 6:53). By using the term *"Son of Man"* from the Book of Daniel 7: 13-14, Jesus is indicating that it is as glorified, risen Lord that he will communicate divine life to us through the Eucharist. This is the supernatural love-power we need to intensify his divine presence within us.

Father Conley Bertrand

Thank you, God, for All These Blessings!



Members of "All These Blessings" (Deut 28:2), led by Mary LaBorde, gather at Holy Cross Catholic Church in Lafayette where they have been meeting for 8 years.



Anniversary Mass
Archdiocese of New Orleans
St Francis of Assisi



























Sharing with you *my testimony*

Barbara Robinson

I'm from St. Francis of Assisi and I have been a member of *Come, Lord Jesus!* for about 2 years. A friend who also happened to be a leader of *Come, Lord Jesus!* approached me about attending a meeting. I was newly retired and I did have spare time to check it out.

Come, Lord Jesus! has increased my interest in Bible reading which I had previously done little of. The scriptural questions helped me to dig deeper into the content. Who knew that so few words could explain so much! Now I spend more of my time and energy working for God by helping others. I always feel re-energized by the time we are concluding our meeting and experience more joy and love in life. My love for God and Jesus has increased. I have created stronger relationships and experience less worry when having to face the trials of life. I have become more active in parish ministries. Thanks to Father Bertrand for creating *Come, Lord Jesus!* and to my dear friend, Pat who encouraged me to join!

Ann Forshag



About 2 years ago, I was invited to join the *Come, Lord Jesus!* group here at St. Francis of Assisi Parish. As a cradle Catholic from a large Catholic family, and, having undergone 12 years of school under the instruction of the Sisters of St. Joseph, I really thought I already knew everything there was to know about how to be a good Catholic.

But, I was curious about the group and so accepted the invitation to join. But, I was almost doomed from the start, as my initial attendance was sporadic due to family travel and my attitude being in the wrong place – doubtful about the potential benefit to be gained from attending. So, I made the decision to quit. Well, wouldn't you know it, my phone rang shortly thereafter and it was my group leader inviting me to come back and give *CLJ!* another try. I can remember thinking to myself during that phone call that she must have been able to see how shallow my spiritual life was then. So, with her encouragement, I returned to the group and started all over again.

Participation was smoother the 2nd time around. Everything clicked, and now, I can honestly say, that restarting *Come, Lord Jesus!* has turned out to be better for my soul and better for the deepening of my faith than I could ever have imagined. I know, that without the *Come, Lord Jesus!* program, I would have missed out on the most important spiritual growth that I have experienced so far in my life. You see, the practice of your faith is so much more than just following the rules of Catholicism. If it were just about the rules, Catholic calisthenics would be all that was required to strengthen one's faith.

Instead, amongst the many things *CLJ!* has taught me is how important those first two commandments are. And through *Come, Lord Jesus!* I learned more about the every day life of Jesus Christ, the examples he set for us, and all he did for the people of the world and our salvation than I ever knew before.

A positive change has happened in me - a transformation, if you will. "It is no longer I who live but Christ who lives in me" (Galatians 2:19). I am no St. Paul, and I still have a very long way to go, but I feel like a different person because of Father Bertrand's program and because of the discussions held in our meeting room with the wonderful members of my group.



Baker, LA: Maria Catha

Buda, TX Romelia Hernandez

Eunice, LA: Ida Daigle

Jeanerette, LA: Alysha Darden

Lafayette, LA: Diana Desormeaux, Darlene Gesser

Lake Charles, LA: Melissa Hamilton

Metairie, LA: Sue Martina

Milton, LA: James B. Prudhomme, Alex Breaux, Pamela Broussard, Richard Broussard

New Iberia, LA: Fr. John Okebule

Slidell, LA: Natalie Ulschak

Ville Platte, LA: Keither Vidrine

Youngsville, LA: Janice Morein

Returning Member

Slidell, LA: Donna Oster



Lake Charles, LA .....Debbie Bruney .....**Leader**
Marsha McMullen, SharLyn Guillory, Becky Stein.

Lafayette, LA .....Melanie Heintz .....**Leader**
Marty Heintz, Nancy Roy, Dawn Richard, Ree Mere



September 2026
Gift Bags Received

Thank you for your generosity!
2 Corinthians 9:7

Abbeville	Franklin	New Iberia
Algiers	Grand Prairie	New Orleans
Avery Island	Gretna	Oberlin
Baker	Harvey	Opelousas
Baldwin	Henderson	Patterson
Baton Rouge	Houma	Paulina
Bayou Vista	Houston TX	Pierre Part
Bell City	Jeanerette	Ragley
Bossier City	Jefferson	Rayne
Breaux Bridge	Jennings	Richard
Broussard	Judice	Schriever
Cankton	Kenner	Scott
Carencro	Kinder	Slidell
Cecilia	Kinder	St. Amant
Centerville	Krotz Springs	Sugartown
Charenton	Lacombe	Sulphur
Church Point	Lafayette	Terrytown
Coteau	Lake Charles	Vidrine
Cow Island	Lufkin TX	Ville Platte
DeRidder	Marrero	Washington
Duson	Maurice	Westwego
Erath	Metairie	Youngsville
Esther	Milton	
Eunice	Mire	
Fenton	Morgan City	
Forked Island	Morse	



Condolences

To the members of "The Lord is My Banner!" in Patterson, LA on the death of member, Frances Bullard.

To member Mary Ann Huerstel of Slidell, LA on the death of her brother, Henry Lasseigne.

To the members of the Wynhoven Community Nursing Home Group in Marrero, LA on the death of their member, Thelma Tucker.

To member Emily Reed of Ville Platte, LA on the death of her mother-in- law, Diana Attaway Reed.

To member Gail Daigre of Broussard, LA on the death of her brother, Jonathan Cormier.

To member Barbara Thomas of Broussard, LA on the death of her aunt, Lorena Cross Ozenne.

To member Tonya Clark of Pierre Part, LA on the death of her husband, Billy Clark.

To member Angie Hill of Dry Creek, LA on the death of her sister, Deenie Anderson.

Memorial Burse Donations

August 28 - Sept 21, 2026

Deenie Anderson
Barry Harding
Lorena Cross Ozenne
Theresa Touchet
Jonathan Cormier
Henry Lasseigne
Diana Attaway Reed
Thelma Tucker
Dorothy Dubnansky
Frank LeBouef
Justin Schleis

Come, Lord Jesus!
1804 W. University Ave.
Lafayette, LA 70506

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