

- A beautiful celebration this week for the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary on Wednesday.
 - Attendance was rather light, and I would be remiss if I did not point out once again that holy days of obligation ARE obligation... just as is our coming to give thanks and worship to God on Sunday.
 - The Church used to have quite a few more than these days. There's only a few now...so make every effort to come if possible.
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- Now in our Gospel today we have the climax of Jesus' soliloquy on what He would leave to us as His perpetual presence...and the unparalleled, unprecedented source of grace: His Body and Blood in the Eucharist—the sacrament of sacrament from which the grace of all other sacraments flow...because the Eucharist IS Christ.
- ...for He tells us here most definitively: “...UNLESS you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink his blood, you do not have life within you...my flesh is true food, my blood is true drink.”...at which point everyone in His audience was absolutely befuddled... and many refused to remain with Him.
- But the apostles, though they did not understand, stayed with Him through their faith...remembering the otherwise impossible healings and signs that He had performed that proved that He was from God.
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- In the Eucharist we receive not only grace, but the fountain of grace—God Himself—within us...recalling what Jesus said a few chapters earlier: “...whoever drinks of the water that I shall give him will never thirst; the water that I shall give him will become in him a spring of water welling up to eternal life.” (John 4:14)

- And, of course, St. Paul confirms this belief of the early Church when he says: *“The cup of blessing which we bless, is it not a participation in the blood of Christ? The bread which we break, is it not a participation in the body of Christ?”*
(1Corinthians 10:16)
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- This week we in the Church have needed this spring of living water welling up within us, because the news out of Pennsylvania was so disheartening—dis-spiriting—to the point of despair.
- For those who might have been beyond news range, a grand jury report came out alleging various molestations of children over about seven decades by about 300 priests, other clergy and seminarians...ripping open wounds of both Church and victims once again.
- For the vast majority of us, such crimes are unimaginable...but in the decadence remaining from Original Sin, we see it daily in the news.
- But such crimes by clergy against children sinks to the deepest and darkest depths of treachery—those most trusted slaughtering the innocence of those most trusting. Utterly contemptible.
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- But while such news is horrifying to all—especially to us in the Church—there ARE distinct rays of hope. Most abuse was done in the late 1900s; in fact, few cases occurring in the 2000s have been reported anywhere—including here in the Archdiocese of Santa Fe, gracias a Dios. Thus, though there are dormant cancerous cells still needing to be found and excised, the body as a whole seems to be in remission. We pray it be eliminated absolutely.
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- After such revelation, many may ask you...and you may even ask yourselves: “After all this, why stay Catholic?!” Several reasons. Like with Puerto Ricans, our home can be flooded and hurricane-ravaged, but we are devoted to her nonetheless.
- And, as in our families, members may do evil, but we do not abjure our family name, rather working all the harder to redeem and demonstrate our family’s foundational virtue and honor.
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- We need only look at scripture to be reminded that decadence and scandal are not new...and yet, God never left His people, but ever urged them to repentance and conversion.
- The prophet Elijah also suffered terrible despair at the decadence of God’s people in his time, but as St. Paul writes: *“But what is God’s reply to him? ‘I have kept for myself seven thousand men who have not bowed the knee to Baal.’ So too at the present time there is a remnant, chosen by grace.”* (Romans 11:4-5)
- We Catholics, despite dejection at the news of the day, seek all the more to be part of the chosen remnant by redoubling our own fidelity...
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- ...for, despite the hypocrisy and treachery and even evil of some IN the Church, we Catholics firmly believe in the truth OF the Church...that she is guided by God’s Holy Spirit in the way of all truth, and that Christ remains with her as He promised just prior to His Ascension into Heaven. (Matthew 28:20).
- Our hearts adapt the words of Peter to Jesus: “To whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life; and we have believed, and have come to know, that you are the [Church of the] Holy One of God.” (John 6:68-69)

- So...we trust in Jesus' Word, and continue to cry out daily:
"Marana tha! Come, Lord Jesus!" (cf. 1 Corinthians 16:22)
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- ...and we remember Psalm 13:
- *"How long, O LORD?...How long must I bear pain in my soul,
and have sorrow in my heart all the day? ...But I have trusted in
thy steadfast love; my heart shall rejoice in thy salvation."*
(Psalm 13:1-5)

Reading 1

[Prv 9:1-6](#)

Wisdom has built her house,
she has set up her seven columns;
she has dressed her meat, mixed her wine,
yes, she has spread her table.
She has sent out her maidens; she calls
from the heights out over the city:
“Let whoever is simple turn in here;
To the one who lacks understanding, she says,
Come, eat of my food,
and drink of the wine I have mixed!
Forsake foolishness that you may live;
advance in the way of understanding.”

Responsorial Psalm

[Ps 34:2-3, 4-5, 6-7](#)

R. Taste and see the goodness of the Lord.
I will bless the LORD at all times;
his praise shall be ever in my mouth.
Let my soul glory in the LORD;
the lowly will hear me and be glad.

R. Taste and see the goodness of the Lord.
Glorify the LORD with me,
let us together extol his name.
I sought the LORD, and he answered me
and delivered me from all my fears.

R. Taste and see the goodness of the Lord.
Look to him that you may be radiant with joy,
and your faces may not blush with shame.
When the poor one called out, the LORD heard,
and from all his distress he saved him.

R. Taste and see the goodness of the Lord.

Reading II

[Eph 5:15-20](#)

Brothers and sisters:

Watch carefully how you live,
not as foolish persons but as wise,
making the most of the opportunity,
because the days are evil.
Therefore, do not continue in ignorance,
but try to understand what is the will of the Lord.
And do not get drunk on wine, in which lies debauchery,
but be filled with the Spirit,
addressing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs,
singing and playing to the Lord in your hearts,
giving thanks always and for everything
in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to God the Father.

Gospel

[Jn 6:51-58](#)

Jesus said to the crowds:

“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.”

The Jews quarreled among themselves, saying,
“How can this man give us his flesh to eat?”

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.

Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood
has eternal life,
and I will raise him on the last day.

For my flesh is true food,
and my blood is true drink.

Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood
remains in me and I in him.

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.

This is the bread that came down from heaven.
Unlike your ancestors who ate and still died,
whoever eats this bread will live forever.”