

## The Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ



News You Can Use...from Fr. Steve

### Solemnity of the Body and Blood of Christ

The Solemnity of *Corpus Christi* which commemorates the institution of the Holy Eucharist was introduced in the late 13th century to encourage the faithful to give special honor to the Blessed Sacrament. The official title of this Solemnity was changed in 1970 to The Body and Blood of Christ.

Today we can reflect on what the Catholic Catechism officially teaches about the Holy Eucharist in the following sections;

**#1324** The Eucharist is "source and summit of the Christian life." "The other sacraments, and indeed all ecclesiastical ministries and works of the apostolate, are bound up with the Eucharist and are oriented toward it. For in the blessed Eucharist is contained the whole spiritual good of the Church, namely Christ himself, our Pasch."

**#1325** "The Eucharist is the efficacious sign and sublime cause of that communion in the divine life and that unity of the People of God by which the Church is kept in being. It is the culmination both of God's action sanctifying the world in Christ and of the worship men offer to Christ and through him to the Father in the Holy Spirit."

**#1326** Finally, by the Eucharistic Celebration we already unite ourselves with the heavenly liturgy and anticipate eternal life, when God will be all in all.

**#1327** In brief, the Eucharist is the sum and summary of our faith: "Our way of thinking is attuned to the Eucharist, and the Eucharist in turn confirms our way of thinking."



### For Mission Co-Op St. AJ Welcomes Fr. Richard Wzykiewicz, Sch. P.

Next Sunday, June 21, as part of the Archdiocesan Mission Cooperative Plan, St. Agatha-St. James will host Fr. Richard Wzykiewicz, representing the Piarist Fathers, and our 2<sup>nd</sup> Collection will be dedicated to them. Fr. W will be speaking at all the Masses on behalf of their mission outreach. The Piarist Fathers will be deeply grateful for any prayerful and financial assistance we can offer in support of their educational missionary efforts in Appalachia, a land in crisis; it is the poorest area in modern America.

Appalachia today stands for poverty, isolation, and despair. The Piarist Fathers got involved in Appalachia in 1988, when they sent two priests to the area to establish a school. Today the Piarist School continues to grow, increasing in enrollment every year. The school is now accredited by the State and even fields teams in basketball and track. In addition the Piarist mission outreaches to the poor of the area.

The Piarist Community was established on March 25, 1617 when Pope Paul V accepted the founder, St. Joseph Cablenz, and fourteen other men, into this new religious congregation. The order was called the "Order of the Pius Schools." The abbreviation Sch. P. after the name

### This Week at St. AJ

#### **Saturday, June 13**

9:00AM Mass *Intentions of Seth Stone*

2:30PM Wedding *O'Donnell/Kramer*

#### **Sunday, June 14 The Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ**

10:00AM Mass *Elizabeth T. Geraghty*

11:30AM Mass *Anne Montgomery*

5:00PM Mass *Anna Nguyen*

#### **Monday, June 15**

No 7:30AM Mass until Tuesday, September 8

#### **Wednesday, June 17**

12:30PM to 2:00PM Church will be open today.

#### **Friday, June 19**

12:05PM Mass *Intentions of the Nguyen Family*

No 1:00PM Mass on Friday for the Summer

#### **Saturday, June 20**

9:00AM Mass *Intentions of the Stone Family*

### **Fr. Richard Wzykiewicz, Sch. P. continued**

of a Piarist priest comes from the Latin words: Scholarum Piarum. In the late 1940's many Piarists emigrated from Eastern Europe to the United States and established their first community in Derby, NY. Within the next decade, other schools were established, including a local one in Devon, PA. Fr. Richard teaches at Devon Prep.

Each year, many religious orders and congregations make requests to the Archdiocese of Philadelphia for permission to speak on behalf of their missionary outreach. The Mission Co-Op Plan takes these requests and equitably distributes them throughout the 365 parishes in the Archdiocese so that no one parish is burdened by an inordinate number of appeals and all parishes are invited to support the work of the missions as part of their own parish mission. On behalf of Fr. Richard and his congregation, I invite your generosity.

### **June Spiritual & Liturgical Opportunities**

#### **Feast of the Sacred Heart of Jesus:**

#### **Friday June 19**

Devotion to the Sacred Heart is a form of devotion to the person Jesus, and especially to His Love. From the earliest centuries, the saints meditated on Christ's open side and the mystery of blood and water. The Church was understood as coming forth from the side of Jesus, as Eve came forth from the side of Adam. Through the wound in the side the wounded Heart is revealed, and the wound in the Heart symbolized the wound of Divine Love. Saint Gertrude (d. 1302) had a vision that she was resting her head near the wound in the Savior's side and hearing the beating of the Divine Heart. From the 13th to the 16th century, the devotion was practiced as a private, individual devotion. Devotion to the Sacred Heart became more prominent and widespread by the visions Sister Margaret Mary Alacoque (1647-1690), a French Visitation nun. She had a vision of Christ's Heart on the Feast of Saint John that was similar to that of Saint Gertrude. Jesus permitted her to rest her head upon His Heart, and then disclosed to her the wonders of His love, telling her that He desired to make this known to mankind and to diffuse the treasures of His goodness, and that He had chosen her for this work.

Worship of the Sacred Heart is a long-established tradition in this faith community of St. Agatha-St. James. In 1905 we acquired the beautiful marble statue of the Sacred Heart that is the centerpiece of the Shrine. The