



Living with Christ this Month

The Mass: Community and Commitment

Celebrating the Mass is an important occasion for us all. It not only reaffirms our communion as God's people but also reveals to us the hidden mystery of our whole lives.

Jesus is not content to be present just at Mass to transform bread and wine into himself, but he wants to transform each of us into living images of himself.

The Mass shows how God takes the ordinary stuff of daily life—bread and wine, ourselves—and changes them into something extraordinary.

The eucharistic pattern—take, bless, break and share—is also the pattern of our whole lives. Like Jesus, who gives himself to become our bread, we are called upon to give ourselves so that everyone might live more fully in relation to

God and to one another.

Celebrating the eucharist reminds us that through Jesus' presence in us and with us, the familiar world we love is on the way to being redeemed. Both we ourselves and the whole of creation are now being changed because Christ is still with us.

Living a eucharistic life means seeking opportunities to make every relationship better by our Christian way of living.

Thus in the ordinary time of our lives, we live out the gracious gift that we have been given in the eucharistic sacrament. The more fully we participate in the celebration of the eucharist, the more fully we will be able to deepen the ongoing experience in our everyday lives of living with Christ.

■ STEVE MUELLER
Editor-LWC@ustpaul.ca

LITURGY LINK

Pope Benedict XVI: The Eucharist Is Essential to Sunday

The following is adapted from the homily of Pope Benedict XVI on August 18, 2005 at World Youth Day at Marienfeld in Cologne, Germany.

At the celebration of the Eucharist, we find ourselves in the “hour” of Jesus, to use the language of John’s gospel. The Eucharistic Prayer brings the Eucharist into being. It is the word of power which transforms the gifts of the earth in an entirely new way into God’s gift of himself, and it draws us into this process of transformation.

That is why we call this action “Eucharist”, which is a translation of the Hebrew word *beracha*—thanksgiving, praise, blessing, and a transformation worked by the Lord: the presence of his “hour”.

Jesus’ hour is the hour in which love triumphs. In other words: it is God who has triumphed,

because God is Love. Jesus’ hour seeks to become our own hour and will indeed become so if we allow ourselves, through the celebration of the Eucharist, to be drawn into that process of transformation that the Lord intends to bring about. The Eucharist must become the center of our lives.

The Importance of Sunday

If the Church tells us that the Eucharist is an essential part of Sunday, this is no mere positivism or thirst for power.

On Easter morning, first the women and then the disciples had the grace of seeing the Lord. From that moment on, they knew that the first day of the week, Sunday, would be his day, the day of Christ the Lord.

The day when creation began became the day when creation was renewed. Creation and

redemption belong together. That is why Sunday is so important.

It is good that today, in many cultures, Sunday is a free day, and is often combined with Saturday so as to constitute a “weekend” of free time. Yet this free time is empty if God is not present.

Participating in Eucharist

Sometimes, our initial impression is that having to include time for Mass on a Sunday is rather inconvenient. But if you make the effort, you will realize that this is what gives a proper focus to your free time.

Do not be deterred from taking part in Sunday Mass, and help others to discover it too. This is because the Eucharist releases the joy that we need so much, and we must learn to grasp it ever more deeply, we must learn to love it.

Let us pledge ourselves to do this—it is worth the effort! Let us discover the intimate riches of the Church’s liturgy and its


true greatness: it is not we who are celebrating for ourselves, but it is the living God himself who is preparing a banquet for us.

Leading Others to Jesus

Anyone who has discovered Christ must lead others to him. A great joy cannot be kept to oneself. It has to be passed on.

In vast areas of the world today there is a strange forgetfulness of God. It seems as if everything would be just the same even without him. But at the same time there is a feeling of frustration, a sense of dissatisfaction with everyone and everything.

I know that you all have great aspirations, that you want to pledge yourselves to build a better world. Let others see this, let the world see it, since this is exactly the witness that the world expects from the disciples of Jesus Christ.

Let us go forward with Christ and let us live our lives as true worshippers of God! Amen. 

AROUND THE TABLE

Preparing for Sunday at Home with Your Family

Many households enjoy preparing for the Sunday eucharist by reflecting and talking about the readings beforehand.

This is also a way to connect what goes on at the household table and what happens at the table of the Sunday eucharist. These tables are places where God's Word is heard and God's presence is shared in a meal.

Each week, choose a convenient time and gather the household around the family table, recalling that when we hear God's Word it is as if God were present at our table talking directly to us.

After all are gathered, read the gospel (or one or more of the other readings) for the coming Sunday.

After some time for quiet reflection, invite each member of the household to share their

answers to these questions.


August 3: What "food" do I offer so that others can be nourished today?

August 10: Like Peter, when have I turned from Jesus and felt like I was sinking?

August 17: Like the persistent woman, what help do I most often ask of Jesus?

August 24: How would I answer Jesus' question today?

August 31: What cross do I most want not to carry in my life now? Why?

End with a household blessing of all the gifts that nourish your bodies and the family and friends whose presence together nourishes your spirits. 

This Week in Focus

TWENTIETH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Persistence Does Pay Off

“Help me, please. My daughter is in alcohol rehab and I need bus fare to visit her. She needs me.”

The woman looked pretty scruffy herself. Probably a scam to get money for drink or drugs, the man thought as he turned away. “Don’t pay attention to her,” his friends urged, “it wouldn’t be fair to give her special treatment.”

But the woman clutched at his sleeve and persisted. “Sometimes people need special help. And I can see you are a kind man so I know you will help.”

He is won over by her faith, her confidence and her charm. She will not take “No” for an answer. His answer is almost predictable: “Okay, here is enough for a bus ticket.”

And the woman went to visit her daughter who needed that reassurance to continue her journey to recovery.

Today’s gospel teaches us a number of lessons: the need to trust and have confidence that Jesus really does care for us, in spite of signs to the contrary; the need to persist in prayer—to focus on the prize.

We can learn to be tenacious when we are certain of the justice of our own cause. And above all else we can learn to change our minds when we have made a snap judgment, which may have been conditioned by prejudices such as those that surface in the story of Jesus with the Canaanite woman.

■ PATRICK M. DOYLE

Sunday August 17

TWENTIETH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

q **ENTRANCE ANTIPHON**

(PSALM 83:10-11) God, our protector, keep us in mind; always give strength to your people. For if we can be with you even one day, it is better than a thousand without you.

q **INTRODUCTORY RITES** (P. 28)

q **OPENING PRAYER**

God our Father,
may we love you in all things
and above all things
and reach the joy
you have prepared for us
beyond all our imagining.
We ask this through our Lord
Jesus Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you
and the Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

q **ALTERNATE OPENING PRAYER**

Almighty God,
ever-loving Father,
your care extends beyond the
boundaries of race and nation
to the hearts of all who live.

May the walls, which prejudice
raises between us,
crumble beneath the shadow
of your outstretched arm.
We ask this through Christ
our Lord. **Amen.**

q **FIRST READING** (ISAIAH 56:1, 6-7)

Thus says the LORD:
Observe what is right,
do what is just;
for my salvation is about
to come,
my justice, about
to be revealed.

The foreigners who join
themselves to the LORD,
ministering to him,
loving the name of the LORD,
and becoming his servants—
all who keep the sabbath free
from profanation
and hold to my covenant,
them I will bring
to my holy mountain
and make joyful in my house
of prayer;

their burnt offerings
and sacrifices
will be acceptable on my altar,
for my house shall be called

a house of prayer
for all peoples.
The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

q **RESPONSORIAL PSALM** (PSALM 67:2-3, 5, 6, 8)

O God, let all the na-tions praise you.

©2000 Gordon Johnston/Novalis

**R. O God, let all the nations
praise you!**

May God have pity on us
•and bless_us;
may he let his face shine
•up-on_us.

So may your way be known
up- •on earth;
among all nations,
•your sal-va-tion. **R.**

May the nations be glad and
•ex-ult
because you rule the peoples
•in equity;
the nations on the
•earth you guide. **R.**

May the peoples praise you,
•O God;

may all the •peoples
praise_you!

May •God bless_us,
and may all the •ends_of_the
earth fear_him! **R.**

q **SECOND READING**

(ROMANS 11:13-15, 29-32)

Brothers and sisters: I am
speaking to you Gentiles. Inas-
much as I am the apostle to the
Gentiles, I glory in my ministry
in order to make my race jeal-
ous and thus save some of them.
For if their rejection is the rec-
onciliation of the world, what
will their acceptance be but life
from the dead?

For the gifts and the call of God are irrevocable. Just as you once disobeyed God but have now received mercy because of their disobedience, so they have now disobeyed in order that, by virtue of the mercy shown to you, they too may now receive mercy. For God delivered all to disobedience, that he might have mercy upon all.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

q **ALLELUIA** (SEE MATTHEW 4:23)
Alleluia, alleluia. Jesus proclaimed the Gospel of the kingdom and cured every disease among the people. **Alleluia, alleluia.**

q **GOSPEL** (MATTHEW 15:21-28)
A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew. **Glory to you, Lord.**

At that time, Jesus withdrew to the region of Tyre and Sidon. And behold, a Canaanite woman of that district came and called out, "Have pity on me, Lord, Son of David! My daughter is tormented by a demon." But

Jesus did not say a word in answer to her. Jesus' disciples came and asked him, "Send her away, for she keeps calling out after us." He said in reply, "I was sent only to the lost sheep of the house of Israel." But the woman came and did Jesus homage, saying, "Lord, help me." He said in reply, "It is not right to take the food of the children and throw it to the dogs." She said, "Please, Lord, for even the dogs eat the scraps that fall from the table of their masters." Then Jesus said to her in reply, "O woman, great is your faith! Let it be done for you as you wish." And the woman's daughter was healed from that hour.

The Gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

q **PROFESSION OF FAITH** (P. 30)

q **PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL**

q **PREPARATION OF GIFTS** (P. 31)

q **PRAYER OVER THE GIFTS**

Lord, accept our sacrifice as a holy exchange of gifts. By offering what you have given

us may we receive
the gift of yourself.
We ask this in the name
of Jesus the Lord. **Amen.**

q **PREFACE** (SUNDAYS IN ORDINARY
TIME, PP. 31-32)

q **COMMUNION ANTIPHON**
(PSALM 129:7) With the Lord
there is mercy, and—fullness of
redemption.

q **PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**
God of mercy,
by this sacrament you make us
one with Christ.
By becoming more like him

on earth,
may we come to share his glory
in heaven,
where he lives and reigns for
ever and ever. **Amen.**

q **BLESSING & DISMISSAL** (P. 48)

Responding to the Word

**Isaiah tells us that God wants
the temple to be a house of
prayer for all persons.**

**What can I do to make my
household more prayerful?**

Jesus, today I will...

Living with Christ This Week

When God breaks into our lives, everything gets turned around. The prophet Ezekiel discovers that grief is sometimes too deep for tears, that haughty and irresponsible leaders will be brought low, and that God's Spirit will give life where only death seems to flourish. Jesus tells us that our sacrifices will be rewarded, that God always invites us to greater responses of love and our challenge is to practice what we preach. Saints Jane Frances de Chantal (Mon), John Eudes (Tue), Bernard (Wed), Pius X (Thu), the Queenship of Mary (Fri) and Rose of Lima (Sat) show us what happens when generosity prevails and lives are changed in the service of God and others.

Monday

AUGUST 18

Weekday

(Suggested Mass 24-OT)

General Intercessions for this Week

Use these intercessions with your evening prayer this week.

When we are paralyzed through grief,

R. God, change us through your Spirit.

When we are afraid to share our wealth: **R.**

When we are unwilling to work the whole day in your vineyard: **R.**

When we fail in living out our invitation to be with you: **R.**

When we cannot keep your commandments: **R.**

When we do not practice what we proclaim: **R.**

[St. Jane Frances de Chantal, religious]

(1572-1641)

Born at Dijon, France, Jane Frances Frémiot married Baron de Chantal and had six children. When her husband died in an accident (1601), she sought the spiritual dimension of her suffering. With her spiritual advisor, Francis de Sales, she founded the Congregation of the Visitation for women who wished to live a religious life without the austerity of the existing religious orders. Committed to working with the sick and the poor, she died having established about 85 convents. May we learn as she did that "all God wants is our heart. God is more pleased when we value our uselessness and weakness out of love and reverence for

the Lord's will than when we do violence to ourselves and perform great works of penance."

q ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

(SEE SIRACH 36:15-16) Give peace, Lord, to those who wait for you and your prophets will proclaim you as you deserve. Hear the prayers of your servant and of your people Israel.

q OPENING PRAYER

Almighty God,
our creator and guide,
may we serve you
with all our heart
and know your forgiveness
in our lives.
We ask this through our Lord
Jesus Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you
and the Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever and ever.
Amen.

q ALTERNATE OPENING PRAYER

Father in heaven, Creator of all,
look down upon your people
in their moments of need,
for you alone
are the source of our peace.

Bring us to the dignity
which distinguishes
the poor in spirit
and show us how great is
the call to serve,
that we may share
in the peace of Christ
who offered his life
in the service of all.
We ask this through Christ
our Lord. **Amen.**

q READING (EZEKIEL 24:15-24)

The word of the LORD came to me: Son of man, by a sudden blow I am taking away from you the delight of your eyes, but do not mourn or weep or shed any tears. Groan in silence, make no lament for the dead, bind on your turban, put your sandals on your feet, do not cover your beard, and do not eat the customary bread. That evening my wife died, and the next morning I did as I had been commanded. Then the people asked me, "Will you not tell us what all these things that you are doing mean for us?" I therefore spoke to the people

that morning, saying to them:
Thus the word of the LORD
came to me: Say to the house of
Israel: Thus says the Lord GOD:
I will now desecrate my sanctu-
ary, the stronghold of your
pride, the delight of your eyes,
the desire of your soul. The
sons and daughters you left
behind shall fall by the sword.
Ezekiel shall be a sign for you:
all that he did you shall do
when it happens. Thus you
shall know that I am the LORD.
You shall do as I have done, not
covering your beards nor eating
the customary bread. Your tur-
bans shall remain on your
heads, your sandals on your
feet. You shall not mourn or
weep, but you shall rot away
because of your sins and groan
one to another.

q **RESPONSORIAL PSALM**

(DEUTERONOMY 32:18-19, 20, 21)

**R. You have forgotten God who
gave you birth.**

You were unmindful of the
Rock that begot you.

You forgot the God who gave
you birth.

When the LORD saw this, he
was filled with loathing
and anger toward his sons
and daughters. **R.**

“I will hide my face from
them,” he said,
“and see what will then
become of them.

What a fickle race they are,
sons with no loyalty in
them!” **R.**

“Since they have provoked me
with their ‘no-god’
and angered me with their
vain idols,

I will provoke them with a
‘no-people’;
with a foolish nation I will
anger them.” **R.**

q **ALLELUIA** (MATTHEW 5:3)

Alleluia, alleluia. Blessed are
the poor in spirit; for theirs is
the Kingdom of heaven.
Alleluia, alleluia.

q **GOSPEL** (MATTHEW 19:16-22)

A young man approached Jesus
and said, “Teacher, what good
must I do to gain eternal life?”
He answered him, “Why do you
ask me about the good? There

is only One who is good. If you wish to enter into life, keep the commandments.” He asked him, “Which ones?” And Jesus replied, “*You shall not kill; you shall not commit adultery; you shall not steal; you shall not bear false witness; honor your father and your mother; and you shall love your neighbor as yourself.*” The young man said to him, “All of these I have observed. What do I still lack?” Jesus said to him, “If you wish to be perfect, go, sell what you have and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven. Then come, follow me.” When the young man heard this statement, he went away sad, for he had many possessions.

q **PRAYER OVER THE GIFTS**

Lord,
hear the prayers of your people
and receive our gifts.
May the worship
of each one here
bring salvation to all.
Grant this through Christ
our Lord. **Amen.**

q **COMMUNION ANTIPHON**

(PSALM 35:8) O God, how much we value your mercy! All mankind can gather under your protection.

q **PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

Lord, may the eucharist
you have given us
influence our thoughts
and actions.

May your Spirit guide
and direct us in your way.
We ask this in the name
of Jesus the Lord. **Amen.**

Responding to the Word

**Jesus challenges the rich man
to give away his wealth.**

**What might Jesus be asking
me to give up to follow him?**

Jesus, help me to...

“Hold your eyes on
God and leave the
doing to him. That is
all the doing you have
to worry about.”

ST. JANE DE CHANTAL

HOUSEHOLD RITUAL

Blessing Our Vacation Travel

This month many will be traveling around the country on their vacations. The following prayer can be used before leaving on the vacation journey.

Before leaving for vacation, gather the whole household together. If you wish, sing or listen to an appropriate song.

Begin with the sign of the cross. Then the leader says:

May God bless us and keep us as we begin our journey.
(All respond.) Amen.

Let us listen now to hear how God, like a shepherd, leads us and guides us.

Read aloud Psalm 23 (see August 20, p. 133-134). If you wish, as the responsorial verse for the psalm, invite the household members to say together, **“Guide us, O God, and be with us on our journey.”**

Then the leader prays:

Let us pray:

O God, we entrust ourselves to you as we begin our journey.

Keep us safe,

and give us the grace to be generous to one another and to be courteous and kind to everyone we meet along the way.

Help us to recognize when we are getting on each others


nerves,

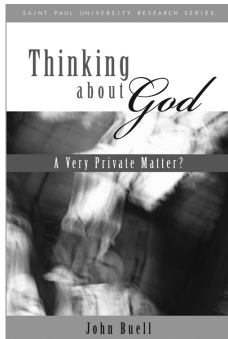
to know when reconciliation is necessary,

and to be conscious of each other's needs as we travel.

Be with us, Lord,

guide us and protect us on our way, so that we might reach our destination in safety and happily return home. Amen.

If you wish, exchange a sign of peace with one another. 



Thinking about God

A Very Private Matter?

JOHN BUELL

John Buell has written a thoughtful and provocative book about God in which he challenges readers to think clearly about belief, faith, philosophy, and human-divine interaction.

136 pages | \$14.95 | 07-904-0

Qty	Order Code	Title	Unit Price	Total
	95-699-9	With the Dawn Rejoicing	\$14.95	
	46-003-8	Listening Up!	\$16.95	
	07-904-0	Thinking about God	\$14.95	

Shipping & Handling

Add \$6.25 for shipping and handling for orders under \$42.00. For orders over \$42.00 add 15% shipping and handling for the total amount.

Subtotal: _____

Shipping: _____

Total: \$ _____

Check or Money Order Credit Card: VISA MASTERCARD

#: _____ Exp. Date _____

Signature: _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone #: () _____

0808LLE

**TWENTY
THIRD** 23rd
PUBLICATIONS

PO BOX 6015 • NEW LONDON, CT 06320
PHONE: 1-800-321-0411 • FAX: 1-800-572-0788
www.23rdpublications.com

Living with Christ

A Daily Spiritual Guide for Strengthening our Catholic faith through the Eucharist

Living with Christ is “More than a Missal.” Each edition provides everything you need to pray, prepare for, and participate in the Mass of the Day by:

- Unlocking the mysteries of Eucharistic spirituality
- Offering full liturgical texts for daily and Sunday Masses
- Providing morning, evening and family prayer sections
- Offering calendar of Saints, pastoral reflections

Yes! Please enter my subscription to *Living with Christ*.

	United States	Canada	Foreign
1 Year	<input type="checkbox"/> \$24.95	<input type="checkbox"/> \$34.95	<input type="checkbox"/> \$44.95
2 Years	<input type="checkbox"/> \$46.00	<input type="checkbox"/> \$66.00	<input type="checkbox"/> \$86.00

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

E-mail: _____

LLCV8

Payment enclosed

Charge my: Visa MasterCard

Credit Card Number: _____ Exp.: _____

Please allow 6 weeks for delivery of first issue.

Mail completed order form to:

Living with Christ • PO Box 6015 • New London, CT 06320

We also offer discounts to parishes for multiple copies. For more information on bringing **Living with Christ** into your parish, please call **800-321-0411**.

Visit us at www.LivingWithChrist.us



NOVALIS