

St. John Paul II and the Eucharist

This week, we celebrate the feast day of St. John Paul II (October 22nd), who was a beloved and holy pope for 26 years and whom many certainly still remember. Among the loves that characterized his papacy and priesthood was his incredible love for the Eucharist. In commemoration of his feast day, here are some quotes from his final encyclical, "Ecclesia de Eucharistia," which contains many gems regarding the Eucharist and its relation to the priesthood, the Church's mission, and the spiritual life.

"The Eucharist is too great a gift to tolerate ambiguity and depreciation."

"Were we to disregard the Eucharist, how could we overcome our own deficiency?"

"The Eucharist, as Christ's saving presence in the community of the faithful and its spiritual food, is the most precious possession which the Church can have in her journey through history."

"The Church has received the Eucharist from Christ her Lord not as one gift [...] among so many others, but as the gift *par excellence*, for it is the gift of Himself, of His person in His sacred humanity, as well as the gift of His saving work."

"Is not the enraptured gaze of Mary as she contemplated the face of the newborn Christ and cradled Him in her arms that unparalleled model of love which should inspire us every time we receive Eucharistic communion?"

"Mary is a 'woman of the Eucharist' in her whole life. The Church, which looks to Mary as a model, is also called to imitate her in her relationship with this most holy mystery."

"In the humble signs of bread and wine, changed into His Body and Blood, Christ walks beside us as our strength and our food for the journey, and He enables us to become, for everyone, witnesses of hope."

"Even when it is celebrated on the humble altar of a country church, the Eucharist is always in some way celebrated on the altar of the world. It unites heaven and earth. It embraces and permeates all creation."

"Proclaiming the death of the Lord 'until He comes' (1 Cor 11:26) entails that all who take part in the Eucharist be committed to changing their lives and making them in a certain way completely 'Eucharistic'. It is this fruit of a transfigured existence and a commitment to transforming the world in accordance with the Gospel which splendidly illustrates the eschatological tension inherent in the celebration of the Eucharist and in the Christian life as a whole."

"The worship of the Eucharist outside of the Mass is of inestimable value for the life of the Church. [...] It is pleasant to spend time with Him, to lie close to His breast like the Beloved Disciple (cf. Jn 13:25) and to feel the infinite love present in His Heart. [...] The Eucharist is a priceless treasure: by not only celebrating it but also by praying before it outside of Mass we are enabled to make contact with the very wellspring of grace."

Parish Eucharistic Adoration Times

Wednesday, October 23rd:	5:45 pm to 7:15 pm
Saturday, October 26th:	2 pm to 3:30 pm
Friday, November 1st:	8 am to 12 pm
Saturday, November 2nd:	2 pm to 3:30 pm

If you would like to contribute a Eucharistic reflection, testimony, book review, etc. to our Eucharistic Revival announcements, please contact us at ImmaculateConceptionERC@gmail.com.

