

“Why do we come to church?” / “WHY ARE WE HERE?” I mean – what is it that motivates us to stop whatever’s going on at home, get inside our vehicles, and drive on over here? Especially early on Sunday mornings for young families! We’re talking parents having to get the kids up early, get them dressed get them fed, get them in the car, get them to church on time and all that goes with it.

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And then of course, there's families with teenagers who at some point along the journey are inevitably going to say: “Do I have to go to church?” I love that question – not only because I asked it for many years of my own parents – but because that's a question that's worth contemplating and IT'S ONE THAT WE SHOULD HAVE A VERY CLEAR ANSWER FOR. I mean, if you were a diehard **Pittsburgh Penguins Fan** that happened to be going to the sixth game of the Stanley Cup playoffs this year at the **Bridgestone Arena in Nashville** and someone asked you before you got through the front doors: “Why did you come here tonight?” The absurdity of that question would be incomprehensible to many – I mean, it's obvious isn't it?

And yet, it's **JUST A GAME OF ENTERTAINMENT**... Grown men with **METAL BLADES** tied to their feet sliding around on a **HUGE ICE RINK** holding a stick in their hands and chasing after a **Hardened Black Plastic Disk**... – a game that will provide you with a few hours of entertainment that **adds NOTHING TO YOUR LIFE but will most definitely take from you a few hours of earthly existence THAT YOU’LL NEVER GET BACK...**

Oh yeah and by the way, the average ticket cost for a game in Nashville during the Stanley Cup playoffs was at **\$2554 PER TICKET**. If the whole thing, from the time you left your home to the time you returned took about six hours, that's an average of \$425 per hour that you're paying. They say that **20,000 people fit inside that arena...**

20,000 Mortal Human Beings ALL ON THEIR WAY TO DEATH happily paying **\$425 per hour for spending 6 hours of their limited time on earth in exchange for SOME KIND OF EMOTIONAL HIGH or LOW...**

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Now if someone was to stop us at the front doors of this church before we walked in here and said: “Why did you come here today?” I guarantee you that the answer to that question would vary greatly from one family to the next. Here's a few samples of one just might hear: *‘This is what we do on Sunday, I come for the music, I’m scheduled to help out with the mass, my parents make me, it makes me feel good...’* and the list goes on.

Why is it that we have clear-cut definite answers for pretty much everything we choose to do out in the secular world, and yet when it comes to church and why we’re here, we have no Unified Reason that **TRANSCENDS INDIVIDUAL PERCEPTIONS BASED ON FEELINGS??**

Today's Feast Day – **The Feast of the Body and Blood of Christ / CORPUS CHRISTI** – clearly spells out for us **THE ONLY REASON WHY** anyone on planet Earth ought to be going to church on Sundays.

*“For unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink his blood, **YOU HAVE NO LIFE IN YOU.** Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood has Eternal Life and I will raise them up on the last day... Whoever **EATS MY FLESH and DRINKS MY BLOOD** lives in me and I in them.”*

That's why we're here... And every other reason we might come up with as to why we think we’re here simply illustrates before the world that **we’re not really in tune with THE MAIN EVENT of what unfolds in one hours time once every seven days on earth.** An hour whereby all of Creation is **BEING** brought forth and is represented through the elements of **Bread and Wine.**

We all see this and even hear it at a glance as the priest lifts up the bread and wine at the altar and he goes on to call it: “Fruit of the Earth” – that’s shorthand for **‘ALL OF CREATION’** – and ‘Work of Human Hands’ – that’s shorthand for **ALL OF HUMAN HISTORY**, our very lives – they will become for us the **Spirit and Son TRANSFORMED!**

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For JUST as the Eternal Word became present in the Christ Child formed within Mary's Womb. Now, by the power of the Spirit, Christ becomes present **IN the Bread and Wine of the altar – SO THAT our VERY BODIES- that is WE who will eat this TRANSFORMED Bread and Win – will become HIS LIVING FLESH and BLOOD.**

*“Unless you eat the flesh and drink the blood of the Son of Man, you have NO LIFE within you!”*

The experience of Mass on Sunday's is an HOUR that is made available to all peoples throughout the world – **FREE of Charge** – and yet, we do pass around an **OFFERTORY BASKET** so that through the generosity of believers, this gift of Eternal Life will continue to be made manifest on earth because we *have a building to pay for, staff to compensate, lights to turn on, taxes to pay*, and all the rest that goes with practical concerns.

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Here's a DIFFERENT PERSPECTIVE on things: earlier I mentioned that at a one time event, the sixth game of the Stanley Cup playoff 20,000 Mortal Human Beings **ALL ON THEIR WAY TO DEATH** happily paid **\$425 per hour for spending 6 hours of their limited time on earth in exchange for SOME KIND OF EMOTIONAL HIGH or LOW.**

Many people come to Mass and **SPEND ONE HOUR OF THEIR LIMITED TIME ON EARTH** in exchange for eating the flesh and blood of God's Resurrected Son who came to earth some 2017 years ago because he was sent by his Father to take on the sins of the world – **that includes MY SINS, your sins** – and from there, he went on to experience ridicule, insults, being tied naked to a pillar and scourged with a whip named *The Cat Of Nine Tails* containing shards of Glass and pieces of Bone that ripped out his flesh... He was then forced to walk through the streets carrying a cross, and then **GRUESOMELY CRUCIFIED** outside the city walls of Jerusalem, **THE CITY OF PEACE.** After which, He was buried underground for three days...

WHEN SUDDENLY, that which had never happened since the foundation of the world and still has yet to pass this day, the man **resurrected from the dead** and appeared to those who believed in him for over 50 days before Ascending back into Heaven. He made us a promise before leaving earth, a promise that goes like this: **"BEHOLD, I AM WITH YOU UNTIL THE END OF THE AGE."** And how does he remain with us? He remains with us in every Tabernacle throughout the entire world hidden under the species of bread and wine that have been **TRANSUBSTANTIATED INTO HIS RESURRECTED FLESH and BLOOD.**

Resurrected flesh and blood that we come to eat **IN ORDER TO BE TRANSFORMED.** One hour of our time once every seven days. And what do many people do when the Offertory Basket comes around?

*“OHHhh, I got some change in my pocket or better yet: here's five bucks God – here's my 5 bucks...”*

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*“Why are we here?” / “Why do we even come to church?”*

We are **ALL ON OUR WAY TO DEATH** and everything else we do out in that world which is not an experience of **SACRIFICIAL LOVE** is something we'll never get back – and people are willing to pay **\$425 an hour** for six hours to experience it. There's only one thing we can do with our limited time on earth that enables us to **TRANSCEND TIME and SPACE** and experience a foretaste of Eternal Life here and now – and that **ONE THING** is making it to a Catholic Church on Sundays to receive that which comes to us from Heaven above.

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This Feast Day is a reminder for us about the miracle we come to experience and witness once a week at church. We come to church because here – and **ONLY HERE** the **LIVING ETERNAL WORD** **invades Creation and History** and **TRANSFORMS IT from within its brokenness.**] 2x

In and through the holy Eucharist that we receive **GOD AS SPIRIT INVADES** our **FLESH** and **Fills this flesh with Divine Life** – that's the 'Stanley Cup Moment' of the liturgy if you will: when the very **flesh of this community is TRANSFORMED by and INTO the Resurrected Flesh of Christ.**

*“Whoever **EATS MY FLESH and DRINKS MY BLOOD** lives in me and I in them...”*