



Jesus The Lord Our Saviour

December 2010 Issue 3 Volume 1

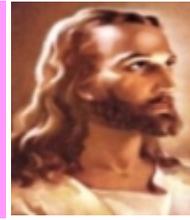
(Not For Sale)



"From his fullness we have all received one gracious gift after another."

(Joh 1:16)

BLESSINGS OF GOD BE YOURS...



**Jesus The Lord
Our Saviour**

“The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with all of you.” (II Corinthians 13:13)

Yaweh O Holy God, I praise You ! Yaweh God, the source of peace, I exalt You ! I fall down prostrate at Your Holy feet , O powerful One and worship You!

You who lay as a babe in Your Mother’s arms, I kiss Your tender feet ! May Your soft feet as smooth as petals purify and make my lips holy!

O Infant Jesus, source of peace, You who crawl in Your Mother’s embrace! May Your tender hands be imprinted on my cheeks. For in You alone do I have grace and fullness. My Joy and peace is in You my Lord.



At this moment I surrender my family and my self lovingly at Your feet (my husband, my wife, my parents, my children and all those who are dear to me).

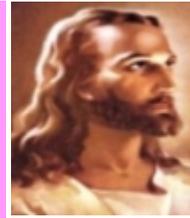
May Your grace , Your Love , Your Peace and Your Joy fill my heart. I give unto You all that confuses my mind and heart. Lead me on O Lord my God, You who came as an infant solely for me! Give a part in Your fullness.

Bless me that I may immerse myself in Your Holiness. May the loving glance of Mother Mary and the blessings of Your sacred hands remain always with me.

Thank You my God! Infant Jesus Thank You ! AMEN !

Fr. V. Ignatius. S. J.

BELOVED IN CHRIST...



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“ From his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace.” (John 1:16)



With the ushering in of the month of December the thoughts of the whole world revolve around Christmas. The thought God became man and He dwelt among us predominates our mind and fills us all with great joy. Even those who never think of God, express loving wishes one to the other on Christmas day.

Even those who never visit the Church wear new clothes and give new clothes to their children as well , present them with gifts and thus enjoy themselves.

The Lord God Jesus Christ who took the form of a human is not the property of any single individual, but He belongs to all humanity.

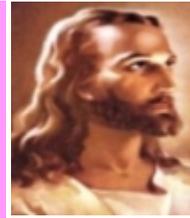
Whether one reads the Bible or not, whether one enters the Church or not, the grace of our Lord Jesus is given to all. Jesus is fullness in Himself! Jesus is Holiness! From His fullness, from His holiness, and from His saintliness, we receive a portion. In the early days, “the law indeed was given through Moses.; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ.” (John 1:17)

During these days meditate lovingly keeping the Infant Jesus in the sweet embrace of His Mother Mary in front of your eyes. You will experience the sweetness of God’s grace.

Christmas wishes to you all. May you be joyful, receiving grace from the fullness of His grace. I wish you joy !

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The Holy Food ! The Holy Drink !



Jesus The Lord
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“THE BREAD THAT I WILL GIVE FOR THE LIFE OF THE WORLD IS MY FLESH.” (John 6:51)

The very foundation and centre of the Catholics’ religious life is “ The Holy Eucharist”.

We see the Body and the Blood of Jesus in the form of the wheat bread and wine, and participate in It. The reason behind this is the teachings of the early Church and tradition.

During the Last Supper, the day before He was crucified and gave up His life, Our Lord Jesus Christ inaugurated this Fountain of Grace called the Holy Eucharist.

“ He took a loaf of bread , and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to them , saying, “ This is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.” And he did the same with the cup after supper, saying, “ This cup is poured out for you is the new covenant in my blood.” (Luke 22:19-20)

“ Do this , as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.” (I Corinthians 11:25)

The message written by St. Paul to the faithful at Corinth, and the Gospels written by Matthew, Mark, Luke and John regarding the spring of graces from the Eucharist is followed by the Catholic Church to this day and we are the beneficiaries of this rich and faithful tradition. The meaning and richness of this great Source of Grace has been well exemplified in the Gospel of John. Let us read the chapters 6 and 13 to 17 to understand the real meaning of the Eucharist. The letter to the Hebrews brings to light the Truth that the High priest Jesus Christ sacrificed His own Body and His Blood to fulfill the will of God the Father.

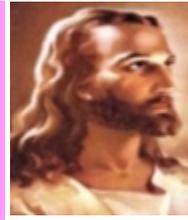
“He entered once for all into the Holy place, not with the blood of goats and calves, but with his own blood, thus obtaining eternal redemption.” (Hebrews 9:12)

When we think of the Holy Eucharist as the Precious Body and Blood of our Lord, let us consider two factors in our mind.

1. The sacrifice of Jesus Christ
2. The Sacrificial Lamb, Jesus’ Body becomes our food and His Blood becomes our drink.



The Holy Food ! The Holy Drink !



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Jesus is the sacrificed Lamb of God

“ Here is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!” (John 1:29)
The Jews shed the blood of a lamb in atonement for their sins. The blood of the lamb was shed on the altar as a symbol of life. What can we human beings give in atonement for the sins committed against God? What can we do in atonement for the sins against the Almighty God? What can be done in reparation for our treachery against God? What can be given?

Generally in human society when some one commits a wrong against the other we give them punishment. The punishment or atonement has to be done in accordance with the seriousness of the offence committed. If a person has stolen or destroyed property worth five crores, then we grant a punishment equal to it. If a person has murdered some one, we either give the person life imprisonment or sentence him/her to death. When one has wronged God, what punishment or atonement can be equaled to it? Would it suffice to sacrifice vegetables and fruits and the blood of animals?

‘Consequently , when Christ came into the world, he said, “ Sacrifices and offerings you have not desired, but a body you have prepared for me; in burnt offerings and sin offerings you have taken no pleasure. Then I said, ‘See, God, I have come to do your will, O God.” (Hebrews 10:5-7)

This is the sacrificed Body and Blood of Jesus Christ. This is the meaning of the priesthood of Jesus. “ Let us therefore approach the throne of grace with boldness, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help him in time of need.” (Hebrews 4:16)

When we speak of a priest, we mean that he is the one who offers sacrifices. According to the custom of the Jews, from the time of Abraham, they shed blood and offered sacrifices. When Abraham was ready to sacrifice his own son, God appreciated his faithfulness and showed him a ram to be sacrificed in the place of his son. And that ram became the sacrificial offering. Its blood was then shed in atonement for the sins. Following this the Jews shed the blood of animals to this day. During the time of Moses Aaron was appointed the priest. In keeping with this tradition, the Levites shed the blood of animals as a living atoning sacrifice.

The Holy Food ! The Holy Drink !



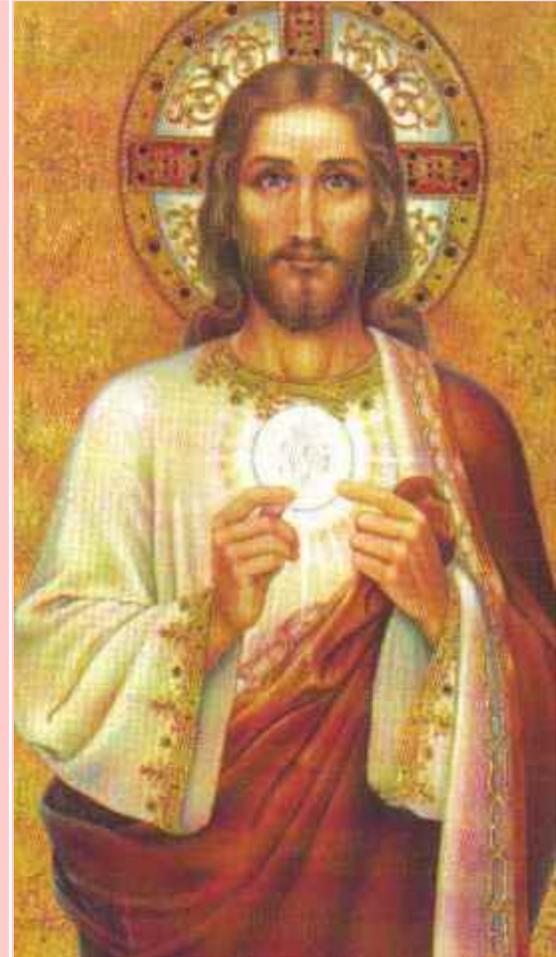
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“ But when Christ came as a high priest of the good things that have come, then through the greater and perfect tent...” (Hebrews 9:11)

The Blood shed by the High priest Jesus, is “ His own blood.”(Hebrews 9:12) The shedding of this blood is just not mere tradition. This is the worship we offer to a Living God. And this makes us fully holy. ‘ As He had given Himself as a pure sacrifice to the Father through the Eternal Holy Spirit.

’ It is our prime duty to participate in this sacrifice of Jesus Christ. We cannot receive atonement for our sins without participating in this sacrifice. This indelible truth is explained in John’s Gospel. The Blood of Jesus Christ the Lamb of God will purify and make us holy. Hence we shall partake in His holiness. “These are they who have come out of the great ordeal; they have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.” (Revelation 7:14) John presented the same truth for our understanding in John chapter 13.

During the Last Supper before Jesus gave the bread as His Body and wine as His Blood , He washed the feet of His apostles and wiped them with the cloth tied around His waist.



Simon Peter protested to this act and said, “ You will never wash my feet.”(John 13:8) Jesus answered, ” Unless I wash you, you have no share with me.” (John 13:8)

According to the Jewish custom , the slave of the house should wash the feet of his master when he enters the house. This is a cleansing ritual. This is the task carried out by a slave. It was this that Jesus did, falling at the feet of His apostles. Making Himself a slave, emptying Himself for the Heavenly Father , He made Himself a sacrificial offering.

It was thus He made Himself a matchless atoning sacrifice for the sins of the people, by shedding His own Blood even for the sins of His disciples. It was in preparation for this , that He broke the bread and gave it to His disciples as His own Body. He took the wine in the cup and gave it to drink as His Blood. If the disciples’ sins are not washed then they have “no part” in His Body and His Blood. When he realized that he would have no part if he were not cleansed of his sins, Peter was alarmed. He said, “ Lord not my feet only, but also my hands and my head.” (John 13:9)

The Holy Food ! The Holy Drink !



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It is thus that we receive atonement and 'participate' in His Body, His Blood and His Life.

The Holy Food ! The Holy Drink !

Jesus Christ not only presented His Body and His Blood as an atoning sacrifice to the Father, He feeds His children who are cleansed and atoned for their sins, with His Body and His Blood. And this is the Holy Eucharist, the Precious Holy Blood.

'So Jesus said to them, " Very truly, I tell you, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink his blood, you have no life in you. Those who eat my flesh and drink my blood have eternal life, and I will raise them up on the last day; for my flesh is true food and my blood is true drink. Those who eat my flesh and drink my blood abide in me, and I in them." (John 6:53-56)

Be it the Jewish religious custom or any other religion, it is a general practice to consume the sacrificed offering. The Jews ate the Pascal lamb in special.

They also ate the unleavened bread. When ever they celebrated Paschal, they killed a blemish less male lamb less than a year old, and after shedding its blood , they roasted the same lamb and ate it.

Eating thus, they remembered how God saved the Israelites from Egypt through Moses and brought them to the Promised land. They also recollected the manner in which God provided them with Manna in the desert for food, and gave them water on striking a rock.

But now Jesus Christ has made a new covenant with His disciples through "His precious Blood." He gave the same Blood as their drink and told them, "**Do this in memory of me.**" Similarly He gave His Body to eat and asked that it be done in memory of Him. It is in this that we participate as "**the Holy Eucharist**" as the Body and Blood of Jesus. We participate in the Body and the Life of Jesus. It is a divine matchless relationship that is hidden behind this great truth. Jesus thus said that they "**abide in me, and I in them.**"

The word " Abiding" signifies " being one". "**So they are no longer two but one flesh. Therefore what God has joined together , let no one separate.**" (Matthew 19:6) This reminds us of the marriage relationship.As Jesus Christ gives us His own Body and His Life, He makes a covenant in His own Blood with us.

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Thus He forms a covenantal relationship akin to marriage and a much more precious Covenant with us entwined in His Life, more valuable than life itself. He wishes that we live in union with Him just as He lives One with the Father.

“ Just as the living Father sent me, and I live because of the Father, so whoever eats me will live because of me.” (John 6:57)

When we the Catholics accept the Holy Eucharist and live thus, it is such a big gift. Greatly privileged are those who partake of this Divine and Holy Eucharist. Only the chosen people partake in this Divine meal. May God make us all worthy !

Rev. Fr. V. Ignatius. S.J.

**WISH ALL READERS MERRY CHRISTMAS
AND A PROSPEROUS AND JOYFUL NEW
YEAR.**