

## Opening of the Year of the Eucharist – June 22-23, 2019

This Novena prayed nine days before the June 23<sup>rd</sup> start would be a great way to make immediate preparation for the Year of the Eucharist. The novena would begin on June 14. The link is here:

[http://www.ewtn.com/Devotionals/novena/Corpus\\_Christi.htm](http://www.ewtn.com/Devotionals/novena/Corpus_Christi.htm)

**In the Masses you celebrate on June 22-23, we would suggest the following rituals to open the Year of Eucharist.**

1. Gather the faithful outside the main door of the church, weather permitting. \*
  - a. Give a brief explanation of the Year of the Eucharist. Share with the faithful that this moment of processing is a symbolic way of entering the Year of the Eucharist. (sample of an explanation is attached)
  - b. Read the decree (attached)
  - c. Process in with a Eucharistic Hymn of your choosing from the resources you have available.
  - d. Carry in the Year of the Eucharist banner. After the processional, have the banner carrier hang the banner on the main door of the parish church. Hooks are provided with the banner and should be attached to the door ahead of time. Additional banners can be ordered. Contact Dionne Eastmo in the Faith Formation Office.
2. Have the parishioners pray the sequence for the Feast of Corpus Christi. You could also sing it although there is no familiar melody available. (The text of the sequence is attached.)
3. Preach about the Year of the Eucharist focusing on the bishop's desire to deepen and strengthen the faithful's encounter with the Lord in the celebration of the Mass.
4. Use some or all of the intercessions for the Universal Prayer. (These are attached.)
5. If possible in your parishes, given the need to drive to mission, we would encourage you to have a Eucharistic Procession. This procession could be organized in a variety of ways. A sheet of explanation is attached. If a procession is not possible, a period of exposition and adoration could follow Mass. In the parishes where the priest is required to leave for his

next Mass, train an Extraordinary Minister of Communion to lead the community in a closing prayer and do a simple reposition of the Blessed Sacrament. (A sample of this is attached.)

\* If the weather is not conducive to starting outside, gather the liturgical ministers at the main entrance. Invite the people to face the main entrance. Do the introductory explanation changing it to say something like the following: *As the ministers process into the church let it symbolize our entering the Year of the Eucharist.* Carry the banner in and once the process is finished, hang it on the main door.

## **Sample of an introduction to the procession.**

We begin today the Year of the Eucharist. Bishop Gruss has asked us to spend this year, from now until the Feast of Corpus Christi in 2020, deepening our understanding of and love for Jesus in the Holy Eucharist. This is a wonderful opportunity to encounter Jesus anew and to discover again the treasure that we as Catholics have in the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass, the Real Presence of Jesus in the Eucharist, and Holy Communion. *We begin outside the church this morning (or evening) and process into the church to symbolize our entering the great Year of the Eucharist.* Bishop Gruss offered the following decree to open the Year of the Eucharist.

## Corpus Christi Sequence

Laud, O Zion, your salvation,  
Laud with hymns of exultation,  
Christ, your king and shepherd true:

Bring him all the praises you know,  
He is more than you bestow.  
Never can you reach his due.

Special them for glad thanksgiving  
Is the quick'ning and the living  
Bread today before you set:

From his hands of old partaken,  
As we know, by faith unshaken,  
Where the Twelve at supper met.

Full and clear ring out your chanting.  
Joy nor sweetest grace be wanting,  
From your heart let praises burst:

For today the feast is holden,  
When the institution olden  
Of that supper was rehearsed.

Here the new law's new oblation,  
By the new king's revelation,  
Ends the form of ancient rite:

Now the new the old effaces,  
Truth away the shadow chases.  
Light dispels the gloom of night.

What he did at supper seated,  
Christ ordained to be repeated,

His memorial ne'er to cease:

And his rule for guidance taking,  
Bread and wine we hallow, making  
Thus our sacrifice of peace.

This the truth each Christian leans,  
Bread into his flesh he turns,  
To his precious blood he wine:

Sight has fail'd, nor thought  
conceives,  
But a dauntless faith believes,  
Resting on a pow'r divine.

Here beneath these signs are hidden  
Priceless things to sense forbidden;  
Signs, not things are all we see:

Blood is pouring and flesh is broken,  
Yet in either wonderous token  
Christ entire we know to be.

Whoso of this food partakes,  
Does not rend the Lord nor breaks;  
Christ is whole to all that taste:

Thousands are, as one, receivers,  
One, as thousands of believers,  
Eats of him who cannot waste.

Bad and good the feast are sharing,  
Of what divers dooms preparing,  
Endless death, or endless life.

Life to these, to those damnation,

See how like participation  
When the sacrament is broken,  
Doubt not, but believe 'tis spoken,  
That each sever'd outward token  
doth the very whole contain.

Is with unlike issues rife.

Nought the precious gifts divides,  
Breaking but the sign betides  
Jesus still the same abides,  
still unbroken does remain.

Lo! The angel's food is given  
To the pilgrim who has striven;  
See the children's bread from heaven,  
which on dogs may not be spent.

Truth the ancient types fulfilling,  
Isaac bound, a victim willing,  
Paschal lamb, its lifeblood spilling,  
manna to the fathers sent.

Very bread, good shepherd, tend us,  
Jesus, of your love befriend us,  
You refresh us, you defend us,  
Your eternal goodness send us  
In the land of life to see.

You who all things can and know,  
Who on earth such food bestow,  
Grant us with your saints, though lowest,  
Where the heav'nly feast you show,  
Fellow heirs and guest be. Amen. Alleluia.

## Universal Prayer for Corpus Christi

Priest: Let us open our hearts to the Lord knowing his presence and his deep desire to encounter us in the Most Holy Eucharist.

1. In the Year of the Eucharist we ask that Pope Francis and our own Bishop Robert would encounter the Risen Christ anew and serve the Church out of that renewed awareness of God's love for them...we pray to the Lord...
2. For all those who lead others, in government, in parishes, in families and schools...that their service would be renewed through their own encounter with Christ...we pray to the Lord...
3. For our parish community in this Year of the Eucharist. In all that we do may we be open to the invitation to encounter the Lord anew in the celebration of the Mass and his Real Presence in the Eucharist...we pray to the Lord...
4. For those who experience any sickness in body, mind and spirit...that this Year of the Eucharist will lead them to a profound encounter with Jesus that will transform their suffering into a blessing for them and others...we pray to the Lord...
5. For those who have died, that they will encounter the Risen Lord in the company of all the saints and angels...and that their families who mourn, would be assured of the mercy and love of the Lord through their own encounter with him in the celebration of the Mass...we pray to the Lord...

(add additional intentions according to the needs of our local community)

## Eucharistic Procession

Following Mass, the faithful would process with the Blessed Sacrament into the surrounding community or countryside. This is a visible way of taking the Lord into our community and our lives. It is an expression of faith and a moment to reach beyond the parish community to the larger civic community. Such a procession can become an opportunity to talk about our Catholic Faith, about our believe in the Real Presence and the call of all Catholics to attract and form intentional disciples of Jesus. What better way to invite this dialogue than by a procession to express our faith?

### Planning a Eucharistic Procession.

1. Select a chairperson to lead this effort.
2. Create a committee of interested parishioners.
3. Plan the procession
  - a. The suggested date is after the Corpus Christi Mass, June 23<sup>rd</sup> or on the evening before following Mass on June 22<sup>nd</sup>.
  - b. Decide the route of the procession. It could be around the church property or more properly along a public road or street.
  - c. Contact the civil authorities to make sure the procession is possible and obtain any “parade permits” that might be required.
  - d. If you are walking on a busy street, develop a plan for security and traffic flow.
4. For the process the following items are needed
  - a. A monstrance
  - b. Incense
  - c. At least two candles
  - d. Processional cross
  - e. The Year of the Eucharist Banner
  - f. Worship aids with Eucharistic Songs and the rosary prayers if parishioners are not familiar with these prayers.
  - g. A cloth canopy if the parish has one or choses to make one. (Description below)
5. Following Communion
  - a. Expose the Blessed Sacrament on the altar in the monstrance.
  - b. After the Prayer after Communion
  - c. The priest will incense the Blessed Sacrament while an appropriate Eucharistic hymn is sung.
  - d. The server with the processional cross will begin the procession.

- e. The priest carrying the Blessed Sacrament is preceded by the servers with candles and the incense.
  - f. The people follow behind the priest carrying the Blessed Sacrament. The banner can be carried in the midst of the people, at the beginning or near the end.
  - g. During the procession the rosary can be prayed, and hymns can be sung. You can alternate between the decades of the rosary and singing a song. A hymn can be sung followed by the rosary and then another hymn or two. It is important to keep the people in the procession engaged in prayer and focused on the Blessed Sacrament.
6. The length of the procession is the choice of the committee. The procession should return to the church.
  7. When the procession is completed, the people gather in the pews. The priest places the Monstrance on the altar.
  8. Benediction follows
    - a. Incense while singing Down in Adoration Falling (Tantum Ergo)
    - b. Eucharistic Prayer
    - c. Eucharistic Blessing with the Humeral veil
    - d. Reposition of the Blessed Sacrament
    - e. Divine Praises OR another Eucharistic Hymn
  9. Following the procession, a time of fellowship is appropriate. The committee will need to line up the donations of snacks and provide drinks.

A canopy for a Eucharistic Procession.

Any outdoor Eucharistic Procession can use a canopy. The canopy serves a dual purpose. On one hand, it protects the Blessed Sacrament during the procession. It creates a “sacred space” that is reserved for the priest carrying the monstrance. As a practical matter, it protects the monstrance against anything that might fall on it, including light rain. Secondly, the faithful at the back of the procession can locate the Blessed Sacrament at the head of the procession more easily.

A canopy can be purchased or fashioned from white material. It can be as elaborate or simple as the parish community would like. Four poles are used to carry the canopy above the Blessed Sacrament.

The material can be purchased and hemmed. It should be rectangular in shape. Grommets can be inset on the four corners of the hemmed cloth. (see diagram)

The poles can be closet rods cut into about eight foot lengths. Attach a long, strong nail or screw into the end of the pole sticking out far enough to place it through the grommet.

As an alternate, the canopy can be made with a pocket around the edge to insert poles to support the canopy. (see diagram) These poles that edge the canopy would be attached to the upright poles that hold the canopy above the monstrance.

The canopy is carried by four persons who are strong enough to handle the canopy in the event of wind.

The four persons gathered at the entrance to the church and when the priest carrying the Blessed Sacrament in the monstrance leaves the church, the four canopy carriers join him, carry the canopy so that the monstrance is centered under the canopy.

Below is a picture of materials needed.

## **Simple Exposition and Reposition**

Expose the Blessed Sacrament on the altar in the monstrance after the distribution of communion. After the Prayer after Communion, the priest will incense the Blessed Sacrament while an appropriate Eucharistic hymn is sung.

Have a period of adoration which can include a scripture reading and a period of quiet prayer, the praying of the rosary, singing of a Eucharistic Hymn or simple silence.

At the designated time, the lay leader would kneel before the Blessed Sacrament exposed in the monstrance on the altar. He or she (or a musician) would lead the community in singing a Eucharistic Hymn. If no one can begin a song, another prayer like the Anima Christi could be prayed. The lay leader would then go to the altar, genuflect, remove the Blessed Sacrament from the monstrance and place it in the tabernacle. The lay leader would return to his/her place and all would pray the Divine Praises

### **Anima Christi**

Soul of Christ, sanctify me;  
Body of Christ, save me;  
Blood of Christ, inebriate me;  
Water from the side of Christ,  
wash me;  
Passion of Christ, strengthen  
me;  
O good Jesus hear me;  
Within your wounds hide me;  
separated from you, let me  
never be;  
From the evil one protect me;  
At the hour of my death, call  
me;  
And close to you bid me;  
That with your saints,  
I may be praising you forever  
and ever.

Amen.

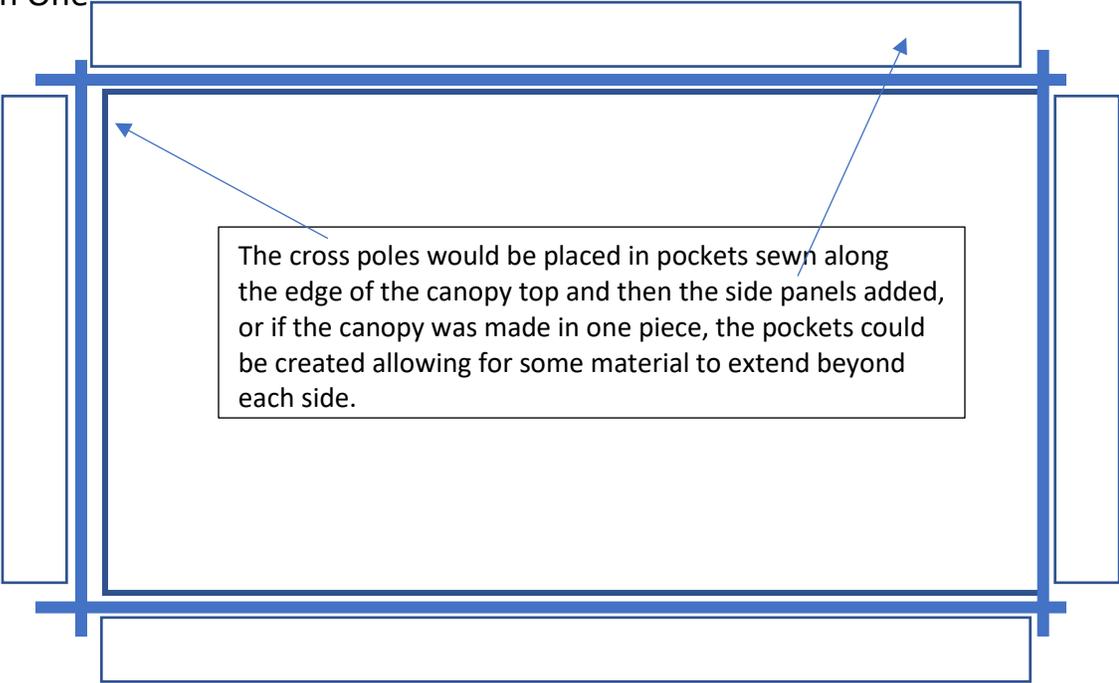
### **Divine Praises**

Blessed be God.  
Blessed be His Holy Name.  
Blessed be Jesus Christ,  
true God and true Man.  
Blessed be the Name of Jesus.  
Blessed be His Most Sacred Heart.  
Blessed be His Most Precious Blood.  
Blessed be Jesus in the Most Holy  
Sacrament of the Altar.  
Blessed be the Holy Spirit, the  
Paraclete.  
Blessed be the great Mother of God,  
Mary most Holy.  
Blessed be her Holy and  
Immaculate Conception.  
Blessed be her Glorious Assumption.  
Blessed be the Name of Mary,  
Virgin and Mother.  
Blessed be St. Joseph,  
her most chaste spouse.  
Blessed be God in His Angels  
and in His Saints.

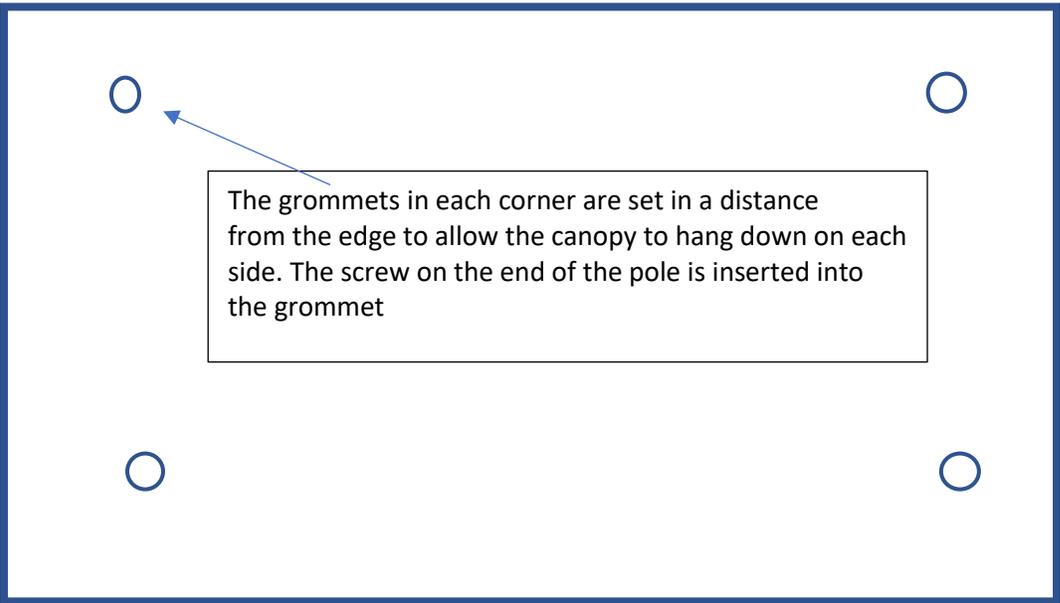
# Making a canopy

## Option One

poles



## Option Two





The upright poles would be about eight feet in length with a nail or screw inserted into the end to hold the canopy with grommets or alternately a hook attached to the side to hold the cross poles.