



## PRAYERS IN THE PEW™

# National Eucharistic Revival Supplement – July 2023

### **BROTHERS AND SISTERS, OUR NATIONAL EUCHARISTIC REVIVAL IS NOW BEGINNING THE YEAR OF PARISH REVIVAL!**

...And there is no better time to start it than in July, the month in our church calendar dedicated to the **Precious Blood of Jesus Christ**, the saving source of life that flowed from His Eucharistic heart on the Cross (John 19:34).

#### **Back to Basics**



The Catechism of the Catholic Church (CCC, 1339-1340) reminds us that the Eucharist is rooted in God's self-revelation to His chosen people. It is the **fulfillment of all the ancient symbols** of God's favor in the Old Testament:

- The **Manna** in the desert (Exodus 16)
- The showbread in the Temple, also called the **Bread of the Presence** in Exodus 25, and
- The Passover meal, with particular emphasis on the **Paschal Lamb** in Exodus 12.

#### **The Fathers Know Best**

The **Fathers of the Church** picked up on this connection very easily and drew amazing analogies between the Passover and the Eucharist. St. Jerome is just one good example of so many:



"After the symbol had been fulfilled by the Passover meal and He had eaten the flesh of the lamb with His Apostles, [Jesus] takes bread which strengthens the heart of man, and goes on to the true **Sacrament of the Passover**. Just as Melchisedech, the priest of the Most High God, in prefiguring Him, made bread and wine an offering, He too makes Himself manifest in the reality of His own Body and Blood." (~ *St. Jerome, Commentary on Matthew's Gospel*)

#### **Liturgy and Truth**



It is amazing how much solid theology of the Eucharist is contained in our Sunday liturgy, if only we have **hearts attentive** to the words of our Eucharistic Prayers!

"Be pleased to look upon these offerings with a serene and kindly countenance, as once you were pleased to accept the gifts of your servant Abel the just, the sacrifice of Abraham, our father in faith, and the offering of your high priest Melchizedek, a holy sacrifice, a spotless victim." (*From Eucharistic Prayer 1, the Roman Canon*)

*"There are two things the devil is deadly afraid of: fervent Communions and frequent visits to the Blessed Sacrament."* ~ **Saint John Bosco**

#### **Eucharistic Revival Updates**

Check out the [Eucharist Revival Timeline, 2022-2025](#).

The [Four Invitations of the Eucharistic Revival](#): reinvigorate worship | create moments of personal encounter | engage in robust formation | send Catholics forth as missionaries.