

**HOLY THURSDAY 2014**  
**April 17, 2014**

**Theme: Living the Eucharist**

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No communal memory is more precious to us than the one that begins:

**“On the night before he died, Jesus took bread...”**

Those words open floodgates bringing to mind not only the meal shared by Jesus and his disciples,

---but also what he, the Lord and Master, did, down on hands and knees, for them at that meal.

Those words automatically conjure for us the food and drink he served at that meal.

They recall what happened immediately after that meal in the Garden of Gethsemane.

And most assuredly they bring to mind what happened to Jesus the following day, Good Friday.

**“On the night before he died, Jesus took bread...”**

On that following day when his body was broken and his blood poured out on the cross, Jesus lived out the words he had ritually spoken over bread and wine the night before.

The rituals became sacrament when they represented the lived reality of his life.

The broken Bread was his now backed up with his Body broken for us on the cross.

The Wine poured out for all from the common cup was now sacrament of his Blood emptied from his nailed hands and feet.

St. Paul wrote truly to the Corinthians: **“As often as we eat this bread and drink this cup we proclaim the death of the Lord until he comes.”**

“Living the Eucharist” is precisely what Jesus did: he lived out on Good Friday what he celebrated with his disciples on Holy Thursday.

“Living the Eucharist” has been the theme or motto for many of us in our parish this Lenten season.

We have explored its meaning in the Sunday scriptures.

Some of us have gathered in weekly small groups to discuss what it means to live the Eucharist in daily life.

We have discovered the bond we have with each other is precious and one we want to treasure all year not just during Lent: most of our small groups are going to continue to meet at least monthly.

We have reaffirmed that Eucharist is a critical part of our lives as Christians and something that influences the way we live and what we value.

We know that living the Eucharist means we all must work together to change the world in which we live to be more God-filled.

**“On the night before he died, Jesus took bread...”**

At these words, we remember how on hands and knees he washed their feet, how he gave his body and poured out his blood, how he was the first to live the Eucharist.

At these words, we – the disciples of Jesus Christ here and now – pledge ourselves to live the Eucharist in communion with him and with each other.