

Calendar

Monday

FEBRUARY 11

Weekday

Gn 1–19

Mk 6:53–56

Tuesday

FEBRUARY 12

Weekday

Gn 1:20–2:4a

Mk 7:1–13

Wednesday

FEBRUARY 15

Weekday

Gn 2:4b–9, 15–17

Mk 7:14–23

Thursday

FEBRUARY 14

*Sts. Cyril, Monk,
and Methodius,
Bishop*

Gn 2:18–25

Mk 7:24–30

Friday

FEBRUARY 15

Weekday

Gn 3:1–8

Mk 7:31–37

Saturday

FEBRUARY 16

Weekday

Gn 3:9–24

Mk 8:1–10

Sunday

FEBRUARY 17

*Sixth Sunday in
Ordinary Time*

Jer 17:5–8

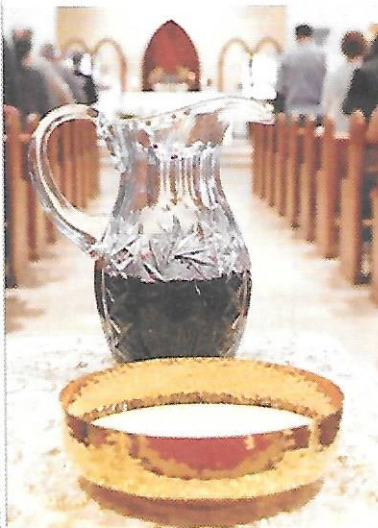
1 Cor 15:12, 16–20

Lk 6:17, 20–26

Dear Padre,

What is transubstantiation?

At the beginning of the Christian community, preachers and poets created magnificent descriptions of the Eucharist using images from the Jewish Scriptures as well as from the surrounding folklores. As Christianity spread throughout the centuries, especially in the developing



European monasteries and universities, theologians became more concerned both with defining the Eucharist more precisely and describing more exactly the changes that occur when the words of the priest are spoken over the bread and wine.

In the mid-sixteenth century, the Council of Trent, under the pressure of various misunderstandings and disagreements, articulated the doctrine we now know as transubstantiation. This doctrine, founded in the philosophy of Aristotle and clarified by St. Thomas Aquinas, seeks to explain without ambiguity that the Eucharist is a substantial change of bread and wine. The very substance—the “breadness”

and the “wineness” of the gifts—is transformed. Even though it looks and tastes like bread and wine, it no longer is; only the physical attributes remain. Bread and wine are now something new: the living Body and Blood of Christ.

The explanation offered by the doctrine of transubstantiation is still helpful. The next challenge lies in how to take this truth about the Real Presence of Christ and make it come alive in the hearts and lives of Christians through vibrant descriptions in creative preaching and catechesis.

Sundaybulletin@Liguori.org

From *The Eucharist: 50 Questions from the Pews*, © 2009 Liguori Publications

A Word from Pope Francis

Let us ask ourselves: How do I follow Jesus? Jesus speaks in silence in the mystery of the Eucharist. He reminds us every time that following him means going out of ourselves and not making our life a possession of our own, but rather a gift to him and to others.

—Solemnity of Corpus Christi, May 30, 2013

