

CORPUS CHISTI DAY AT ST. LUKE'S CHURCH FAIRFAX



On 18 June 2017 Fr. Henry Furman and Deacon Philip Lawson lead a procession of the Holy Eucharist under canopy around the church grounds. Canopy bearers were (Left to Right) 4th Degree Knight Peter Fitzgerald, 3rd Degree Knight Vince Redding, 4th Degree Knight Keith Billado and 4th Degree Knight Skyler Billado.

The Feast of Corpus Christi (Latin for "Body of Christ") is the Roman Rite liturgical solemnity celebrating the reality of the body and blood of Jesus Christ the Son of God in the Eucharist known as transubstantiation. Two months earlier the Eucharist is observed on Maundy Thursday in a somber atmosphere leading to Good Friday. Corpus Christi emphasizes the joy of the Eucharist being the body and blood of Jesus Christ.

The feast is liturgically celebrated on the Thursday after Trinity Sunday or, "where the Solemnity of The Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ is not a holy day of obligation, it is assigned to the Sunday after the Most Holy Trinity as its proper day". It was reported in 2017, however, that

Pope Francis had moved the feast from Thursday to the following Sunday, when it is celebrated in Italy.



Corpus Christi procession. Oil on canvas by Carl Emil Doepler

At the end of Holy Mass, there is often a procession of the Blessed Sacrament, generally displayed in a monstrance. The procession is followed by Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament. A notable Eucharistic procession is that presided over by the Pope each year in Rome, where it begins at the Archbasilica of St. John Lateran and passes to the Basilica of Saint Mary Major, where it concludes with Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament.

The celebration of the feast was suppressed in Protestant churches during the Reformation, because they do not hold to the teachings of transubstantiation. Depending on the denomination, Protestant churches instead believe in differing views

concerning the presence of Christ in the Eucharist, or that Christ is symbolically or metaphorically part of the eucharist. Today most Protestant denominations do not recognize the feast. The Church of England abolished it in 1548 as the English Reformation progressed, but later reintroduced it. FROM WIKIPEDIA



A Mass preceded the procession where the choir added depth and a personal touch. (R-L: Dwain Becker, Jackie Becker, Mary Beth Redding, Sophia Redding, Jean Ryan)



Parishioners followed the Pastor and Deacon stopping at the driveway front entrance with a view towards the Town of Fairfax, monument to Our Lady, parking lot and view towards Mt. Mansfield and the church entrance



