

The background features a large, semi-transparent white circle centered on a light blue gradient. The gradient transitions from a pale blue at the top to a slightly darker blue at the bottom. The circle is positioned such that its top edge is near the top of the frame and its bottom edge is near the bottom, with a horizontal white band passing through its center.

The Feast of Corpus Christi

The Feast of Corpus Christi (Latin for Body of Christ), also known as Corpus Domini is a liturgical solemnity celebrating the tradition and belief in the body and blood of Jesus Christ.

It emphasizes the joy of the institution of the Eucharist.

The feast is celebrated on the Thursday after Trinity Sunday.



History



The institution of Corpus Christi as a feast in the Christian calendar resulted from forty years of work on the part of Juliana of Liege, a 13th-century Norbertine canoness.

In 1208, Juliana de Cornillon reported her first vision of Christ in which she was instructed to plead for the institution of the feast of Corpus Christi. The vision was repeated for the next twenty years, but she kept it a secret.

The Catholics believe that a village priest and his congregation in Bolsena witnessed a Eucharistic miracle of a bleeding consecrated host.

In 1264 the Pope Urban IV instituted the Solemnity of Corpus Christi on the Thursday after Pentecost by the papal bull *Transiturus de hoc mundo*.

The Feast of Corpus Christi was established to create a feast focused solely on the Holy Eucharist.



When Pope Pius V revised the General Roman Calendar, Corpus Christi was one of only two feasts of devotion that he kept, the other being Trinity Sunday.



The feast had an octave until 1955, when Pope Pius XII suppressed all octaves, even in local calendars, except those of Christmas, Easter and Pentecost.

Importance



While the institution of the Eucharist is celebrated on Holy (Maundy) Thursday, the liturgy on that day also commemorates Christ's washing of the disciples' feet, the institution of priesthood and the agony in the Garden of Gethsemane. The Feast of Corpus Christi is dedicated to the Holy Eucharist and it is a joyful holiday.

In Poland it is celebrated on the Thursday after Trinity Sunday, 60 days after Easter.

A procession





At the end of Holy Mass, there is a procession of the Blessed Sacrament, generally displayed in a monstrance. There are four altars, decorated with trees and flowers, and people follow in the procession, singing happily. 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 makes its way to the Basilica of Saint Mary Major.



