



EXPLORING THE SIGNIFICANCE OF THE REAL PRESENCE

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ST DECLAN'S CHURCH

TUESDAY 23 MARCH 7.30-8:30PM

Tonight's Plan

Talk – the Real Presence

Presentation of the Lord's Prayer

Adoration of the Blessed
Sacrament

Reconciliation (from now in the
confessional and then 3 from 8pm)

The Real Presence of Christ

In the most blessed sacrament of the Eucharist “the body and blood, together with the soul and divinity, of our Lord Jesus Christ and, therefore, *the whole Christ is truly, really, and substantially* contained.”

Catechism of the Catholic Church 1374

SECOND EDITION

revised in accordance with the official Latin text

promulgated by Pope John Paul II

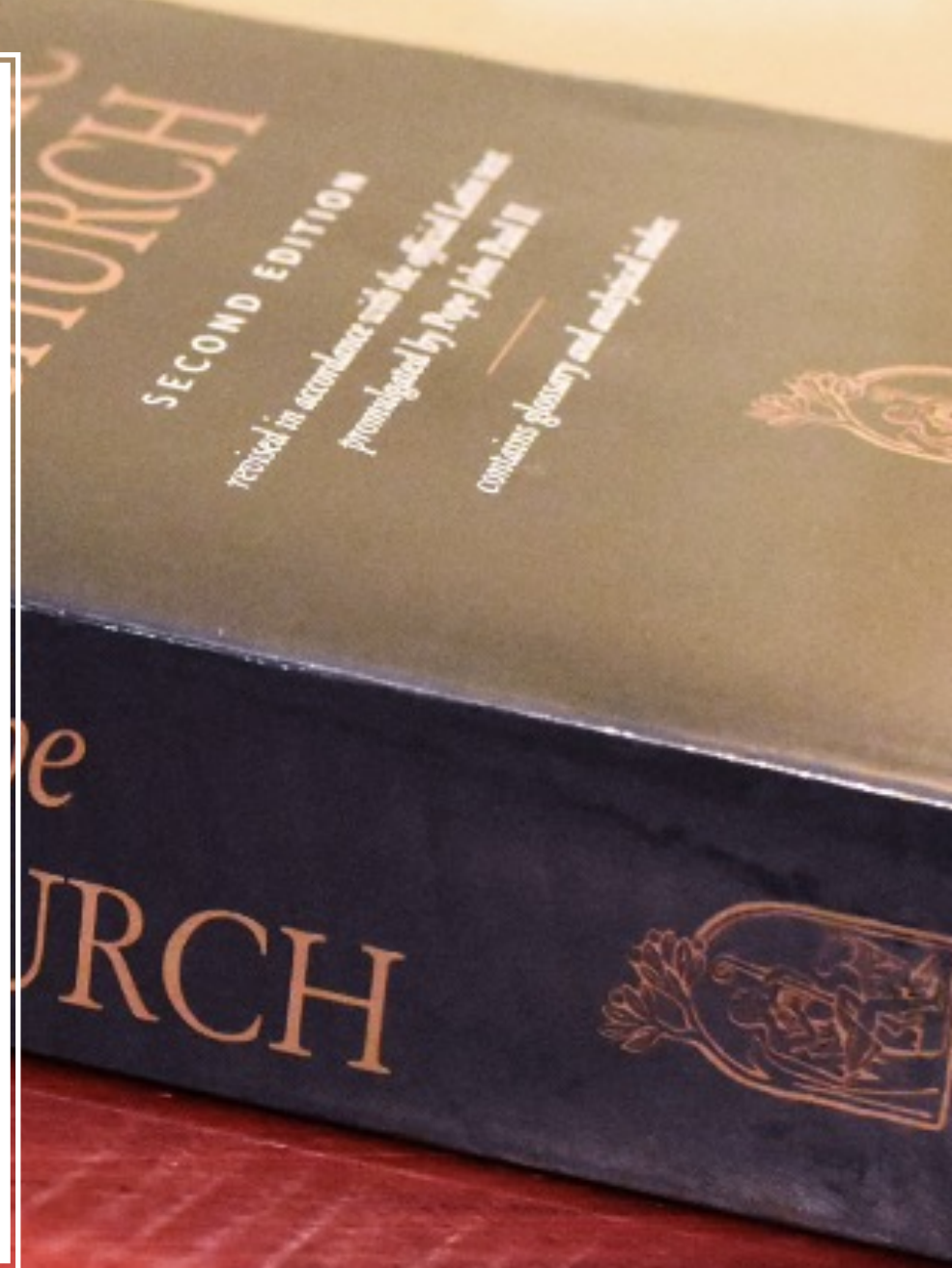
contains glossary and appendix index

CHURCH

The Real Presence of Christ

“This presence is called ‘real’—by which is not intended to exclude the other types of presence as if they could not be ‘real’ too, but because it is presence in the fullest sense: that is to say, it is a substantial presence by which Christ, God and man, makes himself wholly and entirely present.”

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Real Presence in Scripture: Key Texts

Institution of the Eucharist at the Last Supper

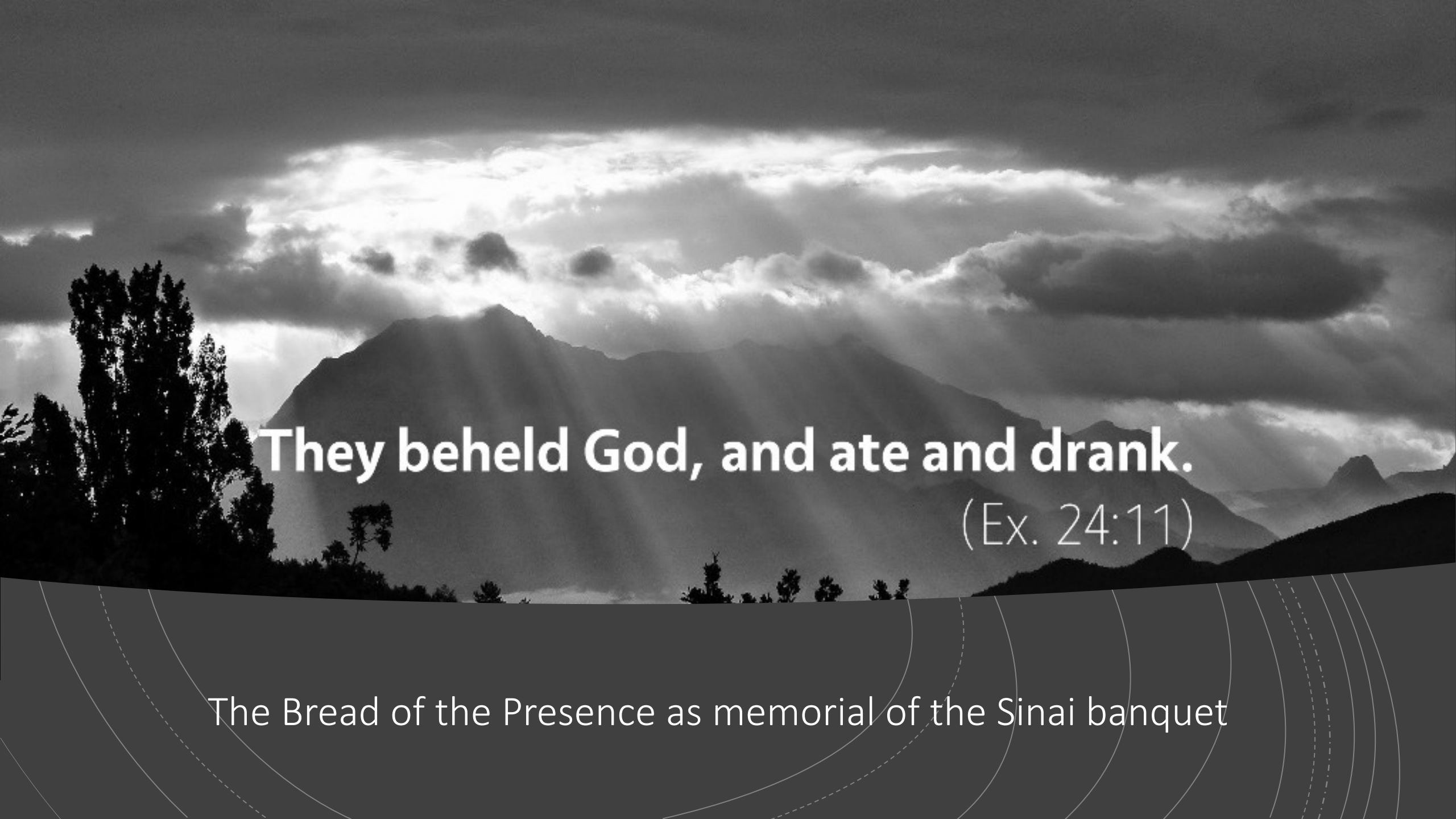
- The bread and wine become the presence of Christ by virtue of Jesus' word, and the power of the Holy Spirit (CCC 1375)

"the bread I will give is my flesh for the life of the world ... my flesh is true food and my blood is true drink" (John 6:51, 55)

- Jesus lets his words stand – doesn't try and correct his listener's understanding



The Bread of the Presence – Exodus 25: 23-29



They beheld God, and ate and drank.

(Ex. 24:11)

The Bread of the Presence as memorial of the Sinai banquet

The Bread of
the Presence –
Leviticus 24:5-7

⁵ You shall take choice flour, and bake twelve loaves of it; two-tenths of an ephah shall be in each loaf.

⁶ You shall place them in two rows, six in a row, on the table of pure gold.

⁷ You shall put pure frankincense with each row, to be a token offering for the bread, as an offering by fire to the Lord.

⁸ Every sabbath day Aaron shall set them in order before the Lord regularly as a commitment of the people of Israel, as a covenant forever.

⁹ They shall be for Aaron and his descendants, who shall eat them in a holy place, for they are most holy portions for him from the offerings by fire to the Lord, a perpetual due.

The Bread of the Presence – Leviticus 24:5-7

1. Sign of the Covenant (the family relationship or bond between God and Israel)
2. Sign of the Everlasting Covenant
3. A sacrifice
4. Offered Every Sabbath Day
5. An "unbloody sacrifice"

The Bread of the Presence in the Time of Jesus

- The Bread of the Presence is now in the Temple
- The Bread of the Presence was understood to be first offered by Melchizedek
- Before the sacrifice the bread could go on a marble table, but afterwards it could only go on the Golden Table
- Story of miraculously feeding all the priests

Showing the Bread of the Presence

- At the Feasts of Passover, Pentecost, Tabernacles
- Bread of the Presence taken outside the inner sanctuary and shown to the pilgrims
- “Behold God’s love for you”
- Because this is the Bread of the Face ... of God
- Why is it a sign of God’s love? Because the Bread of the Presence is a sign of the Covenant bond – of the marriage between God the Bridegroom and Israel the Bride



The Bread and Wine of Jesus' Presence

- Why would Jesus choose the bread and wine rather than the lamb at the Passover to identify himself with?
- Because the Bread and Wine of the Presence are a sign of **God's** presence
- And a sign of God's love for the people

Parallels

Bread of the Presence

- 12 cakes for 12 tribes
- Bread and wine of God's presence
- An everlasting covenant
- As a remembrance (anamnesis)
- Offered by high priest and eaten by priests
- Eaten at the Golden table

The Last Supper

- 12 disciples for 12 tribes
- Bread and wine of Jesus' presence
- A new covenant
- As a remembrance (anamnesis) of Jesus
- Offered by Jesus and eaten by disciples
- Jesus' table in the Kingdom

- If the bread and wine at the Last Supper are the new bread and wine of the presence then this is not ordinary bread
- God was present in Moses' tabernacle and Solomon's temple, now Jesus is present to his followers through the Eucharist
- If the bread of the presence was the bread of the face of God then the Eucharist is the bread of the face of Christ the Son of God

Returning to Real Presence

Bishop Cyril of Jerusalem 4th C

In the Old Testament also there was the Bread of the Presence; but this, as it belonged to the Old Testament, has come to an end; but in the New Testament there is bread of heaven, and a cup of salvation, sanctifying soul and body.



Bishop Cyril of Jerusalem 4th C

... Consider therefore the bread and the wine not as bare elements, for they are, according to the Lord's declaration, the body and blood of Christ; for even though sense suggests this to you, yet let faith establish you. Judge not the matter from the taste, but from faith be fully assured without misgiving, that body and blood of Christ have been vouchsafed to you.



We need a miracle:
Cyril again

“In Cana of Galilee Jesus turned
the water into wine, akin to
blood, is it incredible that he
should have turned wine into
blood?”





Ignatius of Antioch c. 107 AD

- "The medicine of immortality"
- "I desire the bread of God, which is the flesh of Jesus Christ, made from the root of David, and I want as drink his blood which is incorruptible charity."

Justin Martyr c. 150

"We call this food by the name of the Eucharist. It is not permitted to eat of it if one does not believe it to be what we teach ... namely Jesus Christ who by means of the Word of God ... changes this into his body and blood."



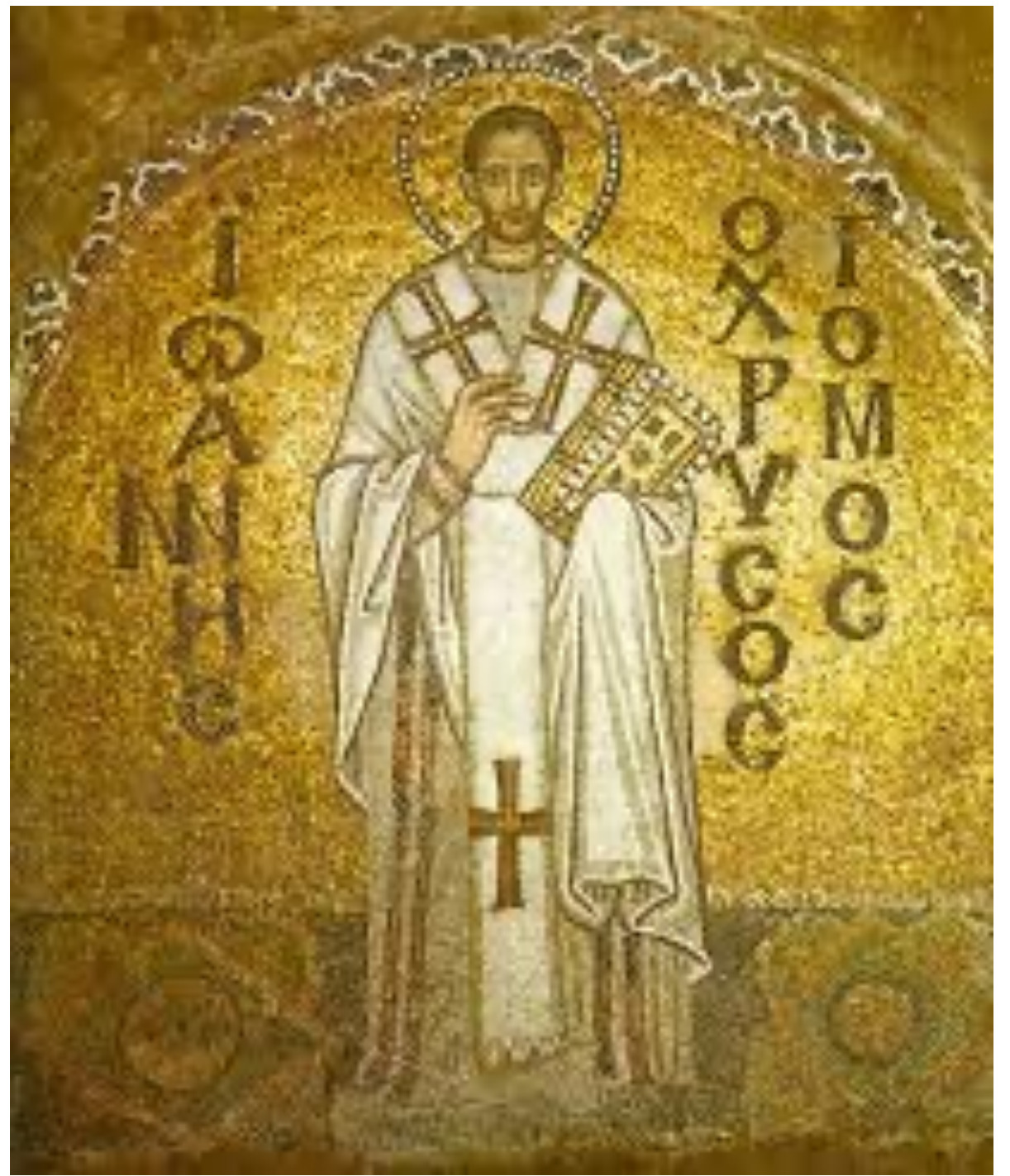
Origen in the 3rd C

"You know well, you who are present at the divine mysteries, how, when you receive the body of the Lord, you strive with such caution and reverence to assure that nothing, not even a piece of the consecrated gift, falls to the ground."



John Chrysostom

"It is not a human being who can change the offerings of the body and blood of Christ, but Christ himself, crucified for us.... The priest pronounces certain words, but the power and the grace of God are present."



Its still looks
like bread
and wine ...

So **how** can it be
Christ's Body and
Blood



Not a new
problem:
In the 12th C

- Just a symbolic presence?
- Grossly literal alternative
- Reality is beyond the apprehension by the senses
- The appearance of the bread and wine remain but at the level of being they have become profoundly different – the substance has changed
- The bread and wine become the personal presence of the Risen Jesus – the Body and Blood, Soul and Divinity of Christ



Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

- We adore the Lord in the Host because the presence of the Lord remains
- Now we are to take and eat the Host, and not simply look at Him
- But to truly receive the Lord is more than physical – it's adoration



Joseph Ratzinger

“[communion] ... demands that we gaze on him, allow him to gaze on us, listen to him, get to know him. Adoration is simply the personal aspect of communion”.

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

Thursday's @ St Declan's Parish

After 9.15 am Mass

&

7 pm - 8 pm



ST DECLAN'S
— CATHOLIC CHURCH —



**Eucharist
and Life**

**Eucharist
and
Mission**

We receive the Body of Christ in order to become the Body of Christ

To be self-giving love in the world