Presence Parish-Wide Study

**Homily Talking Points**

**Week 1: God Is with Us**

* A sacrament is a sign instituted by Christ to communicate his grace to us.
* The Eucharist is the Sacrament of sacraments and the source and summit of the Christian life.
* Transubstantiation means that in the Eucharist the bread and wine really change into the Body, Blood, Soul, and Divinity of Jesus, although they retain the appearance of bread and wine.
* God wants to be united with us, and he accomplishes this through the Eucharist.

**Week 2: The Story of the Eucharist**

* The Eucharist is prefigured in the bread and wine offered by Melchizedek, in the Passover (it is the new Passover), and in the manna in the wilderness.
* Jesus prepares his disciples for the Eucharist by changing water into wine and multiplying loaves of bread.
* Jesus teaches explicitly about the Eucharist in John 6 and lets many followers leave because they don’t like this teaching.
* The Death and Resurrection of Jesus begin a new Creation.
* The Cross is the new Tree of Life, and the Eucharist is its fruit.
* The fruit of the Tree of Life opens our eyes to behold God and gives us eternal life.
* The Eucharist is the memorial of Jesus’s Passion, Death, Resurrection, and Ascension.

**Week 3: Bread for the Journey**

* The manna in the wilderness prefigures the Eucharist.
* The Eucharist sustains us on our spiritual journey and gives us a foretaste of Heaven.
* In the Mass, we worship with all the angels and saints in Heaven; in the Eucharist we are united to God and to everyone else who is in communion with him.
* The Liturgy of the Word includes readings from Scripture, the Responsorial Psalm, the homily, the Creed, and the Prayers of the Faithful.
* The Liturgy of the Eucharist makes present the sacrifice of Jesus on the Cross.
* We participate in the Mass by offering ourselves to God, united to the sacrifice of Christ.
* We must receive the Eucharist reverently and observe the Church’s rules for doing so.
* The Mass sends us forth with a mission of love.