



17TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

GATHER

When they had had their fill, he said to his disciples, "Gather the fragments left over, so that nothing will be wasted." - Jn 6:12

Our Lady of Peace Church July 25, 2021

FROM THE DESK OF FR. STAN

My dear friends,

Only God can feed our deepest hunger

Our readings for this Seventeenth Sunday of the Year give us some rich material about the Eucharist and the many ways in which our God feeds us. The first reading from the second Book of Kings 4:42-44, gives us a brief look at the ancient prophet Elisha. In very sparse terms, we are told simply that a man brings twenty barley loaves to Elisha, “the man of God,” as a sacrificial offering to God. Elisha then instructs his attendant to give the bread to the people to eat. The servant objects, “How can I set this before a hundred people to eat.” Elisha ignores the objection and delivers a message from the Lord, “They shall eat and there shall be some left over.” The reading concludes matter of factly with the statement, “And when they had eaten, there was some left over, as the Lord had said.”

The Responsorial Psalm, taken from Psalm 145, echoes the Elisha account with a reflection on the bounty with which God blesses the people. “The eyes of all look hopefully to you, and you give them their food in due season; you open your hand and satisfy the desire of every living thing. The Lord is just in all his ways and holy in all his works. The Lord is near to all who call upon him, to all who call upon him in truth.”

The gospel reading, John 6:1-15, is modeled after our first reading, with a major expansion of details. We are told that a “large crowd” is now accompanying Jesus because they had seen the signs he was performing on the sick. “When Jesus raised his eyes and saw that a large crowd was coming to him, he said to Philip, ‘Where can we buy enough food for them to eat?’ He said this to test him, because he himself knew what he was going to do.” Then Philip amplifies the objections that were raised by the servant of Elisha. “Two hundred days’ wages worth of food would not be enough for each of them to have a little.”

And then a new element is added. “One of his disciples, Andrew, the brother of Simon Peter, said to him, ‘There is a boy here who has five barley loaves and two fish, but what good are these for so many?’ Jesus said, ‘Have the people recline.’” One wonders why, of all the people present, it is only a boy who seems to have prepared by bringing some food along. Nonetheless, the account shows that Jesus can take the seemingly little offered and multiply it beyond our imagining. Also, there are definite Eucharistic accents in the account. For example, barley was used for making the bread used for the Eucharist in the early Church community. The terminology also points to the Eucharist: “Then Jesus took the loaves, gave thanks, and distributed them to those who were reclining.”

Next, we find that the blessings God offers are super-abundant. “When they had had their fill, he said to his disciples, ‘Gather the fragments left over, so that nothing is wasted.’ So they collected them, and filled twelve wicker baskets with fragments from the five barley loaves that had been more than they could eat.” The number twelve is important in the Bible. When Jesus appoints twelve Apostles, this is symbolic, standing for the gathering together of the twelve tribes of Jewish people and bringing about the new day of salvation.

Finally, we have the excited reaction of the crowd to the miracle of the multiplication of the loaves. “When the people saw the sign he had done, they said, ‘This is truly the Prophet, the one who is to come into the world.’” However, Jesus came as one who emptied himself, becoming a servant leader rather than an earthly Messiah or king. “Since Jesus knew that they were going to come and carry him off to make him king, he withdrew to the mountain alone.”

These readings offer much food for thought. Whenever we come to the Lord, often with very little to offer, Jesus can take the little we have and multiply the blessings, satisfying us in a way that the world or earthly possessions never can. In the Eucharist we gain the treasure of Jesus himself, who walks with us, helping us to face whatever challenges we are experiencing, and giving us food for the journey, which at times can be very difficult. As our readings continue to present material on the Eucharist in coming weeks, we will examine various facets of this central mystery of our faith. Because most of us have grown up as Catholics, we can take this treasure for granted, which means that often we look for nourishment and satisfaction of our needs and desires elsewhere, where they can never be fully satisfied. We are created in God’s image. We are made by and for the Lord. Let us learn to turn to our God more and more, reaping the wisdom of the Scriptures, which help us to grasp more fully how our God feeds us.

Mission Cooperative Collection at Our Lady of Peace

To assist with this mission appeal, please place your contribution in an envelope with your name and parish envelope number on it, and place it in the collection basket, or mail it in, any time during the month of July. Thank you for your generous support! Please make all **checks payable to Our Lady of Peace**.



Saturday, July 24-Rosary at 3:15P

4:00P *Agnes Dobosz*
by Sue Hastings

Sunday, July 25

8:00A *Marion Bak*
by Paul & Emily

10:00A *Deacon Albert Routhier*
by his family

Saturday, July 31-Rosary at 3:15P

4:00P *Marge Calcari*
by Mary

Sunday, August 1

8:00A *Sandy Weller*
by her friends

10:00A *Virginia Garrand*
by her family

DAILY MASS

Monday, July 26

8:00A *John Kiley family*

Tuesday, July 27

8:00A *Helen Podlesny*
by the Women's Group

Wednesday, July 28

8:00A *James Britt*
by Mike & Sue Hastings

Thursday, July 29

8:00A *Sandy Weller*
by John Caloon

Friday, July 30

8:00A *Holy Communion Service*



Our Lady's Window

July 19

Maureen Beattie
by Gladys Lapinski



PLEASE ADD 3 ITEMS TO YOUR SHOPPING CART THIS WEEK!

Money is tight? Too hot to go shopping? Sick of going out in the rain? We are all in the same boat! BUT this summer many families in our town are hurting and going with out simple foods that we take for granted and can always find in our kitchen cabinet. So, please write yourself a note to bring **SOMETHING** to church next weekend so kids will not go hungry and they will know that **SOMEONE CARES!**



Big Brothers Big Sisters

BBBS of Franklin County is committed to serving children in need of positive role models by matching them with caring adults. Becoming a mentor is a rewarding and fun experience that benefits the lives of children in the local community.

We are always looking for volunteers eager to positively impact and child and improve their community at the same time. We have many children on our waiting list who are looking for a male-identifying adult volunteer. Contact Becky Hanna, program supervisor, at 413 475.2369 for more information and to discuss this possibility.

CONGRATULATIONS to the winners of the June Lucky Number Club: Karen Malloy (1st); Sue and Mike Hastings (2nd); and Deb Letourneau (3rd). The proceeds from the LNC are used to help our neighbors in need. For information, please call the rectory 413.863.2585.



Inquiry sessions will begin in early September. There is no pressure or commitment. If you wish more information, call Marguerite 863.2585 Ext. 103

PARISH COLLECTIONS

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