



# 18<sup>th</sup> SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

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“For the bread of God is that which comes down from  
heaven and gives life to the world.” - Jn 6:33

Our Lady of Peace Church August 1, 2021

## FROM THE DESK OF FR. STAN



My dear friends,

## Whoever comes to me will never hunger

Our readings for this Eighteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time focus once again on the Eucharist and how our God feeds us throughout our lives. The first passage, Exodus 16:2-4, 12-15, takes us back to the time of Moses. The Lord has freed the people from slavery in Egypt, and now they are in the desert, on their way to the Promised Land. But we find that things are not going well. The supply of food has run out and the Israelites do something that they will repeatedly do throughout the journey: complain. The reading begins, “The whole Israelite community grumbled against Moses and Aaron.” Moses is the leader of the group, and Aaron, his brother, is the priestly, spiritual guide.

The people are so hungry that they want to do the unimaginable. They say to Moses and Aaron, “Would that we had died at the Lord’s hand in the land of Egypt, as we sat by our fleshpots and ate our fill of bread! But you had to lead us into this desert to make the whole community die of famine!” We find here the possibilities that lie before every human being when facing a time of testing. Either you give up and go back to something that, while not perfect, satisfies, if only in a limited way; or you stay with it, work your way through it, and wait expectantly for something better.

The remainder of the reading offers a description of what God does to satisfy the hunger of the people. “Then the Lord said to Moses, ‘I will rain down bread from heaven for you. Each day the people are to go out and gather their daily portion; thus will I test them, to see whether they follow my instructions or not.’” The people are to gather only an amount sufficient for that day. A later author added that on the day before the Sabbath they are to gather a double portion, for no work was to be done on the day of rest. The text continues, “I have heard the grumbling of the Israelites. Tell them: In the evening twilight you shall eat flesh, and in the morning you shall have your fill of bread, so that you may know that I, the Lord, am your God.”

What the Lord has said to Moses comes to pass. “In the evening quail came up and covered the camp. In the morning a dew lay all about the camp, and when the dew evaporated, there on the surface of the desert were fine flakes like hoarfrost on the ground. On seeing it, the Israelites asked one another, ‘What is this?’ for they did not know what it was. But Moses told them, ‘This is the bread that the Lord has given you to eat.’”

This passage of Scripture lies behind something very familiar to us. In the Lord’s Prayer, in the petition for food, there is a double reference to the day: Give us **this day** our **daily** bread. When we offer the prayer, we are humbly asking our God to feed us with a sufficiency for the day. Like the people in the desert, we are asked to have a profound trust in God’s providence, and throughout our life’s journey, we are invited to experience a pattern of trust. No matter the difficulty, our Lord is with us. Our God will provide.

This passage from Exodus also lies behind a phrase in the Second Eucharistic prayer: “Make holy, therefore, these gifts we pray, by sending down your Spirit upon them **like the dewfall**. This reference to “dewfall” takes us to the description of the bread that fed the Israelites as a “dew” that lay about the camp. Our Responsorial Psalm, Psalm 78, echoes the marvels God worked in the desert. “He commanded the skies above and opened the doors of heaven; he rained manna upon them for food and gave them heavenly bread. Man ate the bread of angels, food he sent them in abundance.”

Our Gospel reading, John 6:24-35, is taken from the so-called Bread of Life Discourse of the fourth gospel. Some of the people are asking Jesus for his credentials. “What signs can you do, that we may see and believe in you? What can you do? Our ancestors ate manna in the desert, as it is written: *He gave them bread from heaven to eat.*” Jesus responds, “Amen, Amen, I say to you, it was not Moses who gave the bread from heaven; my Father gives you the true bread from heaven. For the bread of God is that which comes down from heaven and gives life to the world.” When the interrogators request, “Sir, give us this bread always,” Jesus responds, “I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never hunger, and whoever believes in me will never thirst.”

Thus, like the people in the desert in their time of testing, we can either go backward or forward. We can go back to Egypt, as it were, to have our momentary satisfactions. They may work for a while, but will ultimately leave us empty. Or we can turn to the Lord in humble trust and be fed by that which can truly satisfy, the Bread that comes down from heaven, the Bread of Life, who is Jesus, our Eucharistic Lord.



**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

**Saturday, August 7**-Rosary at 3:15P

4:00P *Michael O'Malley*  
by Tami O'Malley

**Sunday, August 8**

8:00A *Walter & Irene Perry*  
by Sandra Rose

10:00A *Agnes Dobosz*  
by Theresa Connelly & family

**DAILY MASS**

**Monday, August 2**

8:00A No intention

**Tuesday, August 3**

8:00A *No intention*

**Wednesday, August 4**

8:00A *Carolyn Prunier*  
by Paul

**Thursday, August 5**

8:00A *Mary Giannini* 12th anniversary  
by the Choleva & Galvis families

**Friday, August 6**

8:00A *Holy Communion Service*



**WHAT CAN I DONATE THIS WEEK?**

Any kind of pasta  
Pasta sauce  
Cans of veggies  
Cans of fruit

*No child should go hungry!*



**WE WELCOME** Everleigh Catherine Nolet who was baptized in our into our church family last weekend, and we pray that God will continue to watch over and bless her family.

**REMEMBER** our friends, relatives and parishioners who are in the hospital, area nursing facilities, or can no longer join us at Mass. They need our prayers.

**WOMEN'S GROUP** will meet on Tuesday, **August 3** at 6:00P in the church hall. We are looking for Christmas Bazaar craft ideas and/or someone who could lead a group craft project.



**MEMORIAL DONATIONS** were made in memory of *Sandy Weller* by Rudy & Rose Urgiel, Cathy, Gay & Jasmine Farr-Marcum; and Liz McCarthy; in memory of *Jimmy Brodie* by Jim & Judy Hartnett; ;in memory of *Deanne Letourneau* by Ron & Connie Sicard; and in memory of *Ursula Kersavage* by Gregory & Pia McGarry.

**INTERESTED IN BECOMING CATHOLIC?**  
Or maybe you still need to receive all of your Sacraments of Initiation?

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

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