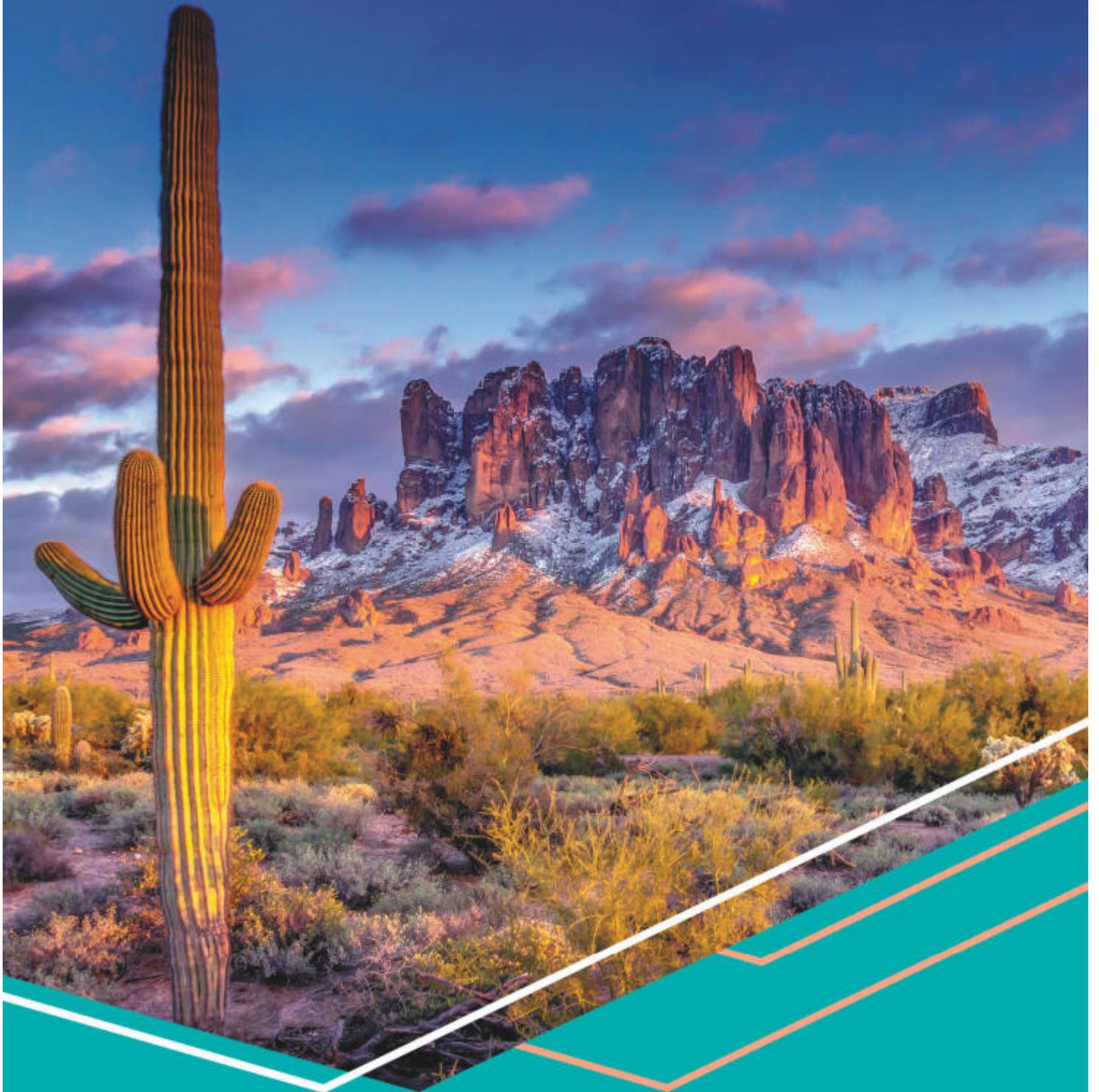


Our Lady of Peace Church Sunday, August 8, 2021



## 19<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

“I am the bread of life. Your ancestors ate the manna in the desert, but they died; this is the bread that comes down from heaven so that one may eat it and not die.” - Jn 6:48-50

**FROM THE DESK OF FR. STAN**

My dear friends,

## Whoever eats this bread will live forever!

Our readings for this Nineteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time continue the Eucharistic theme, focusing on the ways in which God feeds us. The first passage, 1 Kings 19:4-8, focuses on the great prophet Elijah, who lived at a time when many of the people had forsaken their ancestral faith and began worshipping foreign idols. Elijah finds himself in a mighty struggle against a large group of prophets, who are agents of the king and serve pagan gods. Elijah announces a time of drought, and for a period of three years, there is no rain in Israel.

Our reading finds Elijah “a day’s journey into the desert”. In order to find relief from the scorching heat, he sits under a broom tree. Weary with life, Elijah is ready to call it quits. “He prayed for death, saying: ‘This is enough, Lord! Take my life, for I am no better than my fathers.’ He lay down and fell asleep under the broom tree...” At this point, God intervenes by sending an angel: “...but then an angel touched him and ordered him to get up and eat. Elijah looked and there at his head was a hearth cake and a jug of water.” Elijah now has a journey to make.

“After he ate and drank, he lay down again, but the angel of the Lord came back a second time, touched him and ordered, ‘Get up and eat, else the journey will be too long for you!’ He got up, ate, and drank; then strengthened by that food, he walked forty days and forty nights to the mountain of God, Horeb.” Thus, we find that God feeds Elijah in a miraculous way by bread that is delivered by angels. Can you imagine, one hearth cake and one jug of water, and Elijah is able to journey through the desert for forty days and nights to the very mountain where Moses had received the Ten Commandments? When one is nourished by God, incredible things can happen!

The Responsorial Psalm, Psalm 34, is a celebration of God as provider. “I will bless the Lord at all times; his praise shall be ever in my mouth. Let my soul glory in the Lord; the lowly will hear me and be glad. Glorify the Lord with me, let us together extol his name. I sought the Lord, and he answered me and delivered me from all my fears. Look to him that you may be radiant with joy...The angel of the Lord encamps around those who fear him and delivers them. Taste and see how good the Lord is; blessed the man who takes refuge in him.”

Our gospel reading, John 6:41-51, is taken from the so-called Bread of Life discourse of the fourth gospel. We find that when Jesus begins to speak of himself as heavenly bread, opposition grows and many of his followers leave his company. The passage begins, “The Jews murmured about Jesus because he said, ‘I am the bread that came down from heaven,’ and they said, ‘Is this not Jesus, the son of Joseph? Do we not know his father and mother? Then how can he say, ‘I have come down from heaven?’” In other words, like bread itself, Jesus appeared to be too ordinary to be anything special.

One note of caution. John’s gospel, the last to be written, comes from a time when the Christian faith had begun to spread far beyond its original boundaries in Israel. The majority of Christians were now no longer Jewish. The earlier gospels were more careful in pointing out that it was only certain Jews, including the religious leaders, who rejected Jesus’ message. Where Mark, for example, would speak of the Scribes and the Pharisees, by John’s time it is “the Jews”. The reason we have to be cautious is that these words were used in later times to support a violent anti-Jewish stance, culminating in the horrors of the Nazi era. When we read the Scriptures, it is wise to keep in mind how they came to be written, and how properly to understand them in context.

At the end of our passage, we find a full expression of Jesus’ presence in the Eucharist. “I am the bread of life. Your ancestors ate the manna in the desert, but they died; this is the bread that comes down from heaven so that one may eat it and not die. I am the living bread that came down from heaven; whoever eats this bread will live forever; and the bread that I will give is my flesh for the life of the world.” That’s quite a promise, is it not? “Whoever eats this bread will live forever.” Imagine that: eternal life by our communion with the One who conquered sin and death and opened the way for us to enter eternity!

One final note. In the first reading Elijah is instructed to eat the bread provided by heaven so that he might have enough strength for the journey. In our Catholic tradition, the Eucharist received by one who is near death is called “viaticum”—literally, that which is taken for the journey, in this case the journey, not to a holy mountain in the middle of the desert, but to life eternal with God. When nourished by God, truly wonderful things can happen!



**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

**Saturday, August 14**-Rosary at 3:15P

4:00P *Agnes Dobosz*  
by Ed & Marcy Sulda

**Sunday, August 15**

8:00A *Artie & Annie Cotton*  
by Deacon Joe & family

10:00A *Sandy Weller*  
by the Women's Group

**DAILY MASS**

**Monday, August 9**

8:00A *Anne Gates*  
by Marcia Caloon

**Tuesday, August 10**

8:00A *James Kiley family*

**Wednesday, August 11**

8:00A *No intention*

**Thursday, August 12**

8:00A *Bill Mroz 4th anniversary*  
by Marie & family

**Friday, August 13**

8:00A *Holy Communion Service*

**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.

**MEMORIAL DONATION** by Jim, Jean, Kevin & Madeline Koldis for the purchase of three rose bushes for planting in the parish rose garden in the Spring of 2022 in memory of *Sandy Weller*.



**IRCA** INTERESTED IN BECOMING CATHOLIC?  
Or maybe you still need to receive all of your Sacraments of Initiation?  
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**Inquiry sessions will begin in early September. There is no pressure or commitment. If you wish more information, call Marguerite 863.2585 Ext. 103**



**WHAT CAN I DONATE THIS WEEK?**

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

**HELP FEED A CHILD**



Mark your calendar! In cooperation with Walgreens, we will be sponsoring a free drive-thru flu clinic on Wednesday, **October 6** from 9:00-11:30A in our parking lot. Watch the bulletin for more details regarding sign-ups. Have questions? Call Marguerite 863.2585 ext. 103.



Meeting to prepare for a new year of Religious Education



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