St. John Fisher Catholic Church

4567 SW Nevada St., Portland OR 97219
Rev. Richard B. Thompson, Pastor

August 1, 2021
Eighteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Welcome to St. John Fisher Parish!

Mass Schedule

Saturday Vigil...4:30 PM
Sunday...9:00am, 11:00 AM, 5:30 PM
Daily Mass:
Monday-Saturday...9:00 AM
School Masses are celebrated on Wednesdays for students only, a this time.
Holy Days...9:00 AM, 6:00 PM

Confession: Saturday...3:00-4:00 PM
Rosary:
Sunday...8:30 AM
Monday, Wednesday-Saturday...9:30 AM
Adoration : Tuesday 9:30-10:30 AM

Parish Staff 503-244-4945

Pastor:
Father Richard Thompson..... x102
rthompson@johnfisher.org

Coordinator of Sacramental Preparation & Faith Formation:
Maura Timoney-DeVille x103
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Business Manager & Capital Campaign:
Kim Cox x104
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Administrative Assistant/Bulletin:
church @johnfisher.org

Clerical Assistant for Liturgy
Elizabeth Hamilton..... x0
ehamilton@johnfisher.org

Call the Parish Office for information regarding Parish Ministry contacts.

School Office 503-246-3234

Principal.....Merrit Holub
Administrative Assistant.....Michele Wasman

Sacraments

Baptism: Call ahead to schedule a Baptism preparation class.

Preparing for Marriage: Please contact the parish at least six months in advance.

Reconciliation and First Communion: Preparation classes are offered annually for 2nd grade and older.

Confirmation: Preparation classes are offered annually for incoming 9th-12th grade. Classes begin in May.

RCIA: Classes are held annually, starting in the fall, with the anticipation that candidates and catechumens will enter the Church during the Easter Vigil Mass.

Find us on Instagram: **@stjohnfisher_pdx** and on Facebook: **St. John Fisher Portland, Oregon**

PARISH OFFICE 503-244-4945
4567 SW Nevada Street, Portland 97219
We are located in the Corrado Family Center

Email: church@johnfisher.org **Website: johnfisher.org**
Office Hours: Monday-Thursday, 8 am - 5 pm (closed Fridays)

Our Mission

To enthusiastically gather as a parish family to celebrate the Love of Christ through the sacraments, liturgy, and prayer. We grow in knowledge and wisdom of the Catholic Faith which bears fruit in hospitality and service to others.

WORSHIP & MEDITATION

FIRST READING

Then the LORD said to Moses,
"I will now rain down bread from heaven for you.
Each day the people are to go out
and gather their daily portion;
thus I will test them,
to see whether they follow
my instructions or not." (Ex 16:4)

PSALM

The Lord gave them bread from heaven. (Ps 78)

SECOND READING

... be renewed in the spirit of your minds,
and put on the new self,
created in God's way in righteousness and
holiness of truth. (Eph 4:23-24)

GOSPEL

"I am the bread of life;
whoever comes to me will never hunger,
and whoever believes in me will never thirst."
(Jn 6:35)

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GOSPEL MEDITATION

Encourage Deeper Understanding of Scripture

"You cannot see the forest for the trees" is a widely known saying that can bring wisdom to our understanding of our journey. Often, our sight becomes limited to what is immediately before us. We lose touch with lessons and experiences from the past and promises and hope for the future. As human beings, we have the privilege of being able to choose things. What I like and don't like, want, and don't want can be major preoccupations of our minds and hearts. Our preferences and desires begin to define us more than the simple fact of our being. Who we are matters more than what we are or what we have. If we don't move beyond the external and superficial stuff to what really is of essence, we risk becoming very unsettled, disorientated, angry, and unhappy. We fail to see the bigger picture of hope and promise that lies ahead and the Divine Presence that has sustained and carried us before.

We like it when the "now" time of our lives satisfy us. Even the people who witnessed Jesus feed the five thousand got confused and distracted. It felt good when thousands of people were able to eat. They wanted to know what they could do to get this to happen again! But Jesus quickly reminds them that this is not the point of this sign. As much as the now time of our lives is of concern, it is not what is ultimately important. We need to learn the difference between being and doing, drawing more strength from who we are and who God is rather than what is happening around us and the choices we can make. Jesus is the true bread that came down from heaven. Jesus is the very incarnate presence of God who sustains life and assures us that we will not perish. This is not easy to understand and feel. We have to practice being in the presence of ourselves, others, creation, and God. We are brought to a holy place when we encounter the sacredness of being. This is real prayer.

Then, we learn to trust. It is when we cease trusting that we start to become afraid, uncertain, apprehensive, and doubtful, and overly self-concerned. We even start to grumble. God has our back. That is the essential powerful message of the living bread come down from heaven. God, who is alpha is also omega, the beginning and the end, and has everything in between in his care as well. A woman once remarked that her most powerful God moment happened when she and her husband cuddled with their new baby for a time. Without exchanging words and using only the affection communicated through sight and touch, they rested in being with each other. This brought them to the sacred, where they realized that a greater Being was with them. It was real. They knew that they were part of something bigger, intimate, and profound. When we rest in the Living Source of life, we will find that our souls are no longer hungry or thirsty.

LITURGICAL LIFE

RESPONDING to the Call

EVERYDAY STEWARDSHIP

Recognize God In Your Ordinary Moments

Practicing Graciousness in the Desert

Looking back over my journey of parenthood, I know there were days when I traveled the extra mile for my children. I made their toast the way they like it, let them play in the park an extra ten minutes, or let them go to the movies with their friends and I finished up the chores on my own. And then, it happened: the attitude. The request for the smallest thing from one of them is met with disdain or bewilderment.

Sometimes you can be made breathless with the ingratitude of another person who takes so much and with so little shame, only to scoff at the idea that they, too, give even the smallest amount.

But if we're being honest with ourselves, we will admit that we do the exact same thing to God. Haven't we all been the Israelites in the desert at one point or another? God has parted our Red Sea in some way. He's led us out of some great trial, given us some great blessings. But then we run into a little resistance somewhere along the way and we throw up our hands. How could you do this to us, Lord? How could you ask this of us? No, I can't go any further. No, I won't do any more.

Persisting in the blindness to the many ways God continues to protect us is nothing short of a temper tantrum. It robs our Everyday Stewardship of its graciousness, of our ability to accept with joy the trials of life because we are also constantly aware of its blessings.

— Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS

PLEASE CONSIDER ONLINE GIVING

Our parish is grateful for your continued support. Thank you!

WHY DO WE DO THAT?

Catholic Life Explained:

Question:

What can I do to help our family practice our faith each day?

Answer:

Some families practice their religion together as just another event on their schedule: go to church, observe Lent, help at the parish picnic, go to a meeting, volunteer time, make your confession, use your envelope... But the focus needs to be on who we are—God's people, in relationship with him, loved, forgiven, and redeemed, and called to live and proclaim the Gospel. Our awareness of God's presence and our sense of mission are supported by the daily rituals, celebrations, and traditions that help us stay focused. Sharing our faith strengthens us and clarifies the beliefs and values of Christian living.

Daily family practices include time for prayer—before meals, before bed, before important meetings and activities. Attend Sunday Mass together and discuss the homily afterward. Create family celebrations for holy days and holidays. Make religion a regular part of your discussions. Include others, especially the elderly and the less fortunate, in your activities and charitable efforts. By applying the virtues of faith, hope, and love to each day, faith becomes part of who your family is. It influences how you act towards others, what you value, and how mindful of God you are. Faith is the leaven of life that helps all of us rise to our calling and dignity as God's people.

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