

ST. MARY
ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH
STAR CITY

3346 University Ave. Morgantown, WV 26505 • 304-599-3747

August 1, 2021 • 18th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Mass Times: Saturday, 6:00pm, Sunday, 8:30am, 11:00am, en español a la 1:00pm

Daily Mass*: Mon. 6:30pm, Tue.-Thur. 9:00am *please see schedule inside for any changes or cancellations.

Radio broadcast at 8:30am on 1300AM WCLG & 92.1FM, and TuneIn channel Morgan 92.1



18TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Jesus said to them, "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." - Jn 6:32-33



www.stmarystarcity.com



Saint Mary Roman Catholic Church, Star City—JOIN us

St. Mary Parish

Pastor

John P. McDonough
papajohnwv@msn.com

Rectory

304-225-0506

Parish Office

Address:

3346 University Ave
Morgantown, WV 26505

Office Hours:

Monday-Friday 9:30am-4:30pm
Closed Holy Days
& some Public Holidays

Office Staff

Brenda DeVito
Theresa DeMasters

Phone

304-599-3747 / 304-599-1996

Email

stmaryschurch@comcast.net

Website

www.stmarystarcity.com

Mausoleum Accounts & Management

Angela Merinar 304-841-2101
angelamerinar@gmail.com

Maintenance & Facility Management

Jonny Petak

Faith Formation & Youth Ministry

Nancy Ferrari
nickliz@aol.com

Music & Liturgical Ministries Coordinator

Tami Alexander 304-698-7625
tamialexander@gmail.com
stmarystarcitymusic@gmail.com

Hispanic Ministries

Maria Garcia 304-685-7595
stmaryhispanicministry@gmail.com

Tommy Mullenex 304-777-8876
tommymullenex@yahoo.com

St. Ursula Food Pantry & Outreach

Sr. Rachel Blais, S.C.

Phone

304-599-3822

Email

stursulafoodpantryoutreach@comcast.net

St. Francis de Sales Central School

304-291-5070

Prayer Requests

Barbara Fedikovich 304-599-3910
Rena Cyphert 304-599-6642



Are you registered in the Parish?

Registering in a parish is a declaration of your desire to be part of a Catholic community and to make a commitment to the life of the parish family.

Clearly stating your Catholic commitment in all its dimensions brings many advantages, recognition, and responsibility.

At St. Mary Roman Catholic Church, our policy, is that you must be registered and participating in Sunday Mass regularly before a baptism can take place, or for the initial meeting with the pastor in the case

of marriage.

Regular attendance is also required for adults who are asked to be a godparent or sponsor at another parish, in order that a letter can be sent stating that they are a practicing Catholic and a registered member of a parish faith community.

Even though you may have attended Mass here for months, or even years, we would like for you to be registered.

Please pick up a registration form at the church or parish office, or register online at stmarystarcity.com. For more information, call the parish office at 304-599-3747.

Sacraments

Baptism: (Birth – Age 7) Parents are required to participate in a preparation program before the celebration of Baptism. Parents must be registered and attending Sunday Mass regularly. Please contact the parish office for information.

Reconciliation: 30 minutes prior to each daily Mass

Order of Christian Initiation: Children 7-14 years of age, and Children 15 years of age and older & Adults— *The Order of Christian Initiation*, RCIA please contact Please contact the parish office for information

Marriage: Engaged couples planning to marry at St. Mary Church should be practicing Catholics, participating in Sunday Eucharist regularly. Also, they must participate in a Marriage Preparation Program. Call the Parish Office for information. At least **six months notice** is required. *No date for a wedding will be set over the phone.*

Holy Communion to the Sick and Homebound: When a parishioner is confined to home or hospital because of illness or advanced age, call the Parish Office. We will be happy to make arrangements to bring Holy Communion.

Anointing of the Sick: Upon request and communally as scheduled

Bulletin Deadline:

Tuesday@Noon, email or written copy please,
no bulletin announcements will be taken over the phone

Email: stmaryschurch@comcast.net

Subject line: attn: Bulletin, and include topic of announcement

Spirituality of the Readings – Endlessly Softly



-Doesn't the word "falling" sometimes describe our lives? Falling into debt, falling out of belief, falling from blazing temperatures, falling from the pandemic, worrying about youths who say, "what shall we believe in?" And the crumbling of that one true foundation of society, the family?

The First Reading talks about a time like this.

God sends Jesus, the true manna.

God had pulled his people out of ancient captivity by sending them on a 40-year "exodus" from the Egypt of that day. In this terrible journey and the blazing heat of those days, things indeed had begun to fall apart. The freed people began to grouse and censure Moses and Aaron, their leaders. They actually said that they would rather have stayed in the land of Egypt and be killed—Egypt which at least had flesh-pots to eat from—than to starve now, wandering, through the desert.

How do we face the falling of their world and ours?

Maybe these words of Anne Lamott hold a key:

When a lot of things start going wrong all at once, it is to protect something big and lovely that is trying to get itself born, ... and this something needs for you to be distracted so that it can be born as perfectly as possible.*

In the exodus, something very big and lovely was trying to be born. God was holding their "falling to pieces" gently all the while. He even sent a huge flock of quail for meat as well as "bread from heaven" (manna) from the skies.

The Gospel for Sunday flows right out of this incident. The people grumbled to Jesus, saying,

our ancestors ate manna in the desert, as it is written: 'he gave them bread from heaven to eat.' What sign can you do, that we may see and believe in you?"

A strange question, since, only the day before, Jesus had multiplied five barley loaves and fishes till there was enough to feed this same huge crowd. What a sign that had been. Did they forget just one day later?

Jesus said, "It was not Moses who gave the bread from heaven; my Father gives you the true bread from heaven."

A crucial distinction. God had sent the manna, God sends Jesus, the true manna. Maybe God had distracted them (and us?) by the falling of his people.

There is a poem by Reiner Maria Rilke, the German poet, which may apply here. If you will indulge me, I will quote it. "Autumn."**

The leaves are falling, falling as from afar,
as if from some far-off garden in the sky.
They fall with gestures of denial.

And in the nights the heavy earth falls
out of all the stars in the loneliness.

We all fall. This hand, here, falls.
And look at the rest: it is in all!

And yet, there is one who holds all this falling,
endlessly softly, in his hands.**

Maybe the careening earth, and human affairs, everything that is falling apart, all of it, every bit of it, has behind it something big and lovely trying to get itself born.

There is really no other true answer to the failures of our world. The dropping away of opportunities, the broken but recovering economy, the racial infidelity, the starvation—no answer at all unless supporting hands make safe the falling and support it with tenderness.

Instead of despairing, we must wait, wait, and then act, act.

Because something lovely is being born.

John Foley, SJ

* From Anne Lamott, Grace (Eventually): Thoughts on Faith. Riverhead Books. 2007, p. 107.

**The above is my own attempt at translation of Rilke's poem into English. Permission is hereby granted to reproduce this translation for personal or parish use.

Giving Summary

Sunday Offering

\$5,912.00

Online Giving

\$2,041.35

Attendance: 386

Rate Your Generosity

Rate yourself on your generosity of Time, Talent, and Treasure for the month of June! (circle one)

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
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For ease of accounting, **separate checks are preferred** for all donations to different collections and purposes, including special collections, Mass intentions, memorials, and donations to different funds e.g. Trust Fund for the Poor, Debt Reduction, etc. Thank you for your help!



 **DONATE TODAY**

GIVE ONLINE!

by clicking on the image on our website
www.stmarystarcity.com.

THIS WEEK'S CELEBRATION OF THE EUCHARIST

August 1, 18th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Saturday, 6:00pm Delores Audia
 Sunday, 8:30am For the People
 Sunday, 11:00am Anthony Yancey
 Domingo, 1pm Por la comunidad de la Parroquia

Monday 8/2 6:30pm	St. Eusebius of Vercelli Mary Pavakum
Tuesday 8/3 9:00am	Weekday in Ordinary Time Janet Tuttle
Wednesday 8/4 9:00am	St. John Vianney Robert Miller
Thursday 8/5 9:00am	Weekday in Ordinary Time Eileen Klug

In the event of Closing of school due to inclement weather, there will be no Daily Mass or Prayer Service.

In the event of a funeral, morning Mass will be cancelled

August 8, 19th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Saturday, 6:00pm Mildred Downey
 Sunday, 8:30am Anthony Yancey
 Sunday, 11:00am For the People
 Domingo, 1pm Por la comunidad de la Parroquia



Mass intentions are still being accepted for 2021. We have weekday and weekend Masses still to

fill. The suggested donation is \$20 for a weekend, \$10 for a weekday. Please call the Parish Office if interested, 304-599-3747. Please note that any Masses cancelled due to unforeseen circumstances such as a global pandemic, inclement weather, or a funeral, will be moved to the next available 'like' date and time e.g., Daily Mass on Tuesday moved to another Tuesday, 8:30 Sunday Mass moved to another 8:30, as available.

Al-Anon (for those affected by someone else's drinking) meets every Thursday at noon at St. Mary Church. Information: call 1-888-425-2666 or WSO@al-anon.org

NA Meetings St. Mary Church, Star City
 Tuesdays-6:30pm, Sundays-1pm
To find other meetings near you, visit
<https://www.na.org/meetingsearch/>



Memorial Donations for Bread and the Tabernacle candle are **being accepted for the year 2021.** The requested donation is \$40. Please call the Parish Office if you are interested, 304-599-3747.

THIS WEEK AT ST. MARY

Sunday, August 1

1:00pm NA Meeting

Monday, August 2

11:00am Funeral of Ellen Kourtsis
 7:00pm Funeral Luncheon Volunteer Mtg.-P/H
 7:00-9:00pm Boy Scouts—Pavilion

Tuesday, August 3

6:30pm NA Meeting—Peace Hall

Wednesday, August 4

7:00pm Catholic Homeschoolers Bible Study

Thursday, August 5

12:00pm Al-Anon
 5:30pm Spanish Mass Music Rehearsal—L/L

Saturday, August 7

5:00-5:40pm Reconciliation

Sunday, August 8

1:00pm NA Meeting



Eternal rest for Ellen Kourtsis, and condolences to her family and friends.

Ministry Meetings!

If you have signed up for a ministry, or you are just interested, please attend the appropriate meeting. All are welcome!

Funeral Luncheon Volunteers

Monday, August 2, 7:00pm, Peace Hall

Social Activities/Concerns Committee

Monday, August 9, 7:00pm

Volunteer Catechists (All age levels)

Monday, August 16 7pm, Library Lounge

Building & Grounds Committee

Monday, August 23, 7:00pm



St. Ursula Food Pantry needs:

***Toilet Paper**
***Liquid Laundry Detergent**
 (please no pods or powder)

Baby & Toddler Program needs:

***Baby Wash & Shampoo**

St. Ursula Food Pantry and Outreach needs an iPhone 8 or greater (new or used)



If you would like to donate a phone, or contribute to the cost, please contact St. Ursula, 304-599-3822.

Book Drive!



Drop your k-5 books
in the marked boxes
in the Narthex and
CFC Entry until the
end of this weekend!

All books donated will go to children
in rural WV and orphanages/schools
overseas.



Remember to support
our advertisers!



**St. Mary Church Ruby Read
Box, Take a Book, Leave a
Book.** Leisure reading materials
only, please.

Catholic Homeschool Planning Meeting

Morgantown area Catholic homeschoolers will gather on Sunday, August 1 at 6:30 p.m. at Grazer's Chop House in Morgantown, WV for a planning meeting. For more information, please contact Patricia Johnson at 304-292-0474 or wildhillclam@gmail.com. "The primary goal in the education of children is to teach, and to give examples of a virtuous life... We instill virtue in their souls, and reveal the image of God within them." – St. John Chrysostom



Morgantown Magnificat is back!

Join us for the Magnificat Visitation, August 21, 2021 at St. John University Parish Hall in Morgantown, (new Magnificat location) Our speaker is Dr. Wanda Franz Ph.D., former National Right to Life Committee President. She'll share her story of how the Holy Spirit called her to a life of service to the Lord while she was just a young girl in post war Germany. A coffee and muffin breakfast will be served.

Register by August 13 at Magnificat-ministry.net (click on Chapters, States, Morgantown Chapter of WV) registration is \$10. Questions? Call 304-296-8950.

Sacrament of Reconciliation (Confession)

30 minutes prior to each Daily Mass
Saturdays from 5-5:40pm as scheduled
(Mon: 6:00pm, Tue.-Thur: 8:30am)
*times may change based on any changes to the
weekly Mass schedule



We have Hearing Assistance Devices
available for use during Mass. If you
would like one, please ask an Usher.



Christian Help is looking for volunteers interested in
supporting our programs and helping at the downtown facility.
Various available positions are:

- Front Desk
- Career Closet
- Children's Closet
- Food Pantry
- Free Store
- Mentorship
- Job Training
- Business Relations

For more information please contact:
Amanda Ejimofor at 304-296-0221 or

volunteercoordinator@motownchristianhelp.com



Volunteer Hours:

Monday: 9am - 4pm
Tuesday: 9am - 4pm
Wednesday: 9am - 4pm
Thursday: 9am - 4pm
Friday: 9am - 2pm



219 Walnut St. Morgantown



Catholic
Charities
West Virginia

AmeriCorps Position available at Catholic Charities WV, Morgantown.

We are accepting applications for
an Economic Opportunity AmeriCorps
member. One year of service Living
allowance of \$16,000 per year and
Education award \$6,345 toward college
loans or tuition.

Please contact CCWVA Program
Assistant Mara Skidmore at
miskidmore@ccwva.org or call 304-292-
6597. Start date August 10, 2021.

Attention all former TECites in St. Mary Parish!

The Diocese is re-starting the TEC program for the entire state under one big umbrella. The first event that the leadership team is planning is a **TEC Re-Union at St. John XXIII Pastoral Center in Charleston on August 28th from 10am to 4pm.**

We are encouraging everyone whose schedule allows and whose faith grew because of their TEC experience to join us for a day of prayer, singing, learning and seeing some of the people you may have met through TEC.

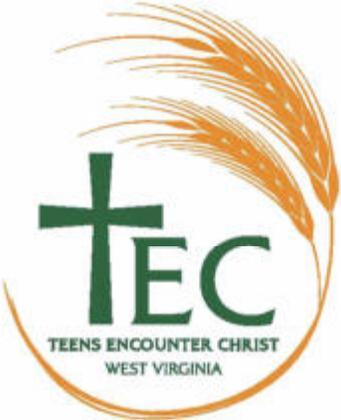
If this interests you, please visit <https://dwc.org/tec-reunion> and register for the event so we know how many people to plan for.

"How much do you love me?"

JOIN THE STATE-WIDE
TEENS ENCOUNTER CHRIST
FAMILY FOR
RE-TEC

A Re-Boot and Renewal of TEC in the
Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston.

SATURDAY, AUGUST 28, 2021
10:00am - 5:00pm
Saint John XXIII Pastoral Center, Charleston, WV



TEENS ENCOUNTER CHRIST
WEST VIRGINIA

The "Fourth Day" of TEC Never Ends!

Beads for Zimbabwe

Immaculate Conception Church

150 S. Maple Ave .Clarksburg WV

July 13, 2021

Priests and Parishioners of the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston

Greetings In The Name of the Infant Jesus,

We would like to take this opportunity on behalf of the Sisters of the Infant Jesus Community in Zimbabwe to thank you for the outpouring of LOVE of the 8,727 Religious Medals, 9,546 Rosaries, Statues and so many Religious Books and Holy Cards received from you and around the diocese of Wheeling-Charleston and many Churches outside the State of West Virginia! Your generosity has given our Religious Order the ability to give your gifts to the people in need to accompany them on their faith and spiritual journeys.

We also received cash donations and were able to send three barrels by boat to our country, Zimbabwe. The trip takes 8-12 weeks for your gifts to arrive. See pictures below.

Thanks to you all, together we are making a difference! Your continued support of our Mission is deeply appreciated to us.

Once more thank you very much and we assure you of our prayers. May god bless you all and your families! We pray for you that our Lord God will bring you His peace and blessings along with health to you and your families!!

Sincerely with our LOVE,

Sisters Maria Rukwishuro, SJI and Sr. Beritha Mashu, SJI



Sunday, Aug 01, 2021

EIGHTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

In it to win it?

Quid pro quo sounds like a pretty good deal. "This for that": the time-honored barter in which we swap resources or labor for room and board, if not a bit more. Consumer culture initiates all of us into the pursuit of the best trade. No surprise that early followers of Jesus imagined they were swapping their attention to his teaching for free food and even better opportunities down the road. Jesus seeks friends who share his vision, not churchgoers hoping for a celestial deal. When it comes to the religion quest, what's in it for you?

TODAY'S READINGS: Exodus 16:2-4, 12-15; Ephesians 4:17, 20-24; John 6:24-35 (113). *"You are looking for me not because you saw signs but because you ate the loaves and were filled."*

Monday, Aug 02, 2021

MEMORIAL OF PETER JULIAN EYMARD, PRIEST

The communion of saints awaits you

Saint Peter Julian Eymard was a 19th-century French priest with a devotion to the Eucharist. He founded two religious institutes with a focus on Eucharistic Adoration: the Congregation of the Blessed Sacrament for men and the Servants of the Blessed Sacrament for women. The former prepared children for their First Communion and reached out to lapsed Catholics to bring them back to receiving Communion. He famously said, "You take Communion to become holy, not because you already are." Perhaps you spent some time away from the Eucharist because of the pandemic. No matter how long you are apart, Christ eagerly awaits your return.

TODAY'S READINGS: Numbers 11:4b-15; Matthew 14:13-21 (407). *"He said the blessing, broke the loaves, and gave them to the disciples."*

Tuesday, Aug 03, 2021**We're in the same boat**

The "Barque (boat) of Saint Peter" is one of the oldest symbols of the Catholic Church. Early church fathers, like Tertullian and Clement of Alexandria, compared the church to a sailing vessel. Saint Boniface wrote: "The church is like a great ship being pounded by the waves of life's different stresses. Our duty is not to abandon ship, but to keep her on her course." As Peter learned, the trick is to place our trust in Jesus. Pray for Pope Francis—successor to Peter—that he can guide the church through today's troubled waters.

TODAY'S READINGS: Numbers 12:1-13; Matthew 14:22-36 or Matthew 15:1-2, 10-14 (408). *"Peter got out of the boat and began to walk on the water toward Jesus."*

Wednesday, Aug 04, 2021

MEMORIAL OF JOHN VIANNEY, PRIEST

Ministry for the ministers

The unique lives of Catholic priests and religious sometimes give rise to stressful times and difficult transitions that need the help of a healing hand. The Saint John Vianney Center in Downingtown, Pennsylvania serves Catholic clergy and religious struggling with behavioral and emotional issues, addictive and compulsive disorders, weight management, and other challenging issues that arise during their vocational journeys. The JVC employs modern therapeutic support along with traditional prayer, spiritual practices, and the intercession of today's saint to restore these

dedicated men and women to active and fruitful ministry. Pray for your religious sisters and brothers, priests, deacons, and bishops. They need your love.

TODAY'S READINGS: Numbers 13:1-2, 25—14:1, 26-29a, 34-35; Matthew 15:21-28 (409). *"O woman, great is your faith! Let it be done for you as you wish."*

Thursday, Aug 05, 2021

MEMORIAL OF THE DEDICATION OF THE BASILICA OF MARY MAJOR

Legend-worthy Madonna

Legend has it that a freak snowstorm in August was a sign that urged a Christian couple to build an enormous Roman church dedicated to the Virgin: the Basilica of Mary Major, founded in the 400s. Yet this story is like many others that church historians call "legends." Our legends are not to be disdained; they usually uphold truths as interesting as the facts. In this case, the larger truth is that Mary is a key member of the communion of saints who helps us on our path to God. During this month when Mary is particularly venerated, ask for her intercession.

TODAY'S READINGS: Numbers 20:1-13; Matthew 16:13-23 (410). *"Then, raising his hand, Moses struck the rock twice with his staff, and water gushed out in abundance for the people and their livestock to drink."*

Friday, Aug 06, 2021

FEAST OF THE TRANSFIGURATION OF THE LORD

Shhh . . .

"Most people do not listen with the intent to understand; they listen with the intent to reply," says leadership guru Stephen Covey. When we fail to listen, we miss the messages necessary for growth in ourselves and others. Listening builds a well of wisdom that helps the listener and the speaker get to know themselves better. "Listening is a form of spiritual hospitality," says Henri Nouwen, and Pope Francis calls listening a form of "self-sacrifice" as we put another person above ourselves and "share questions and doubts." God commanded Jesus' disciples to listen to him. We are called to do the same.

TODAY'S READINGS: Daniel 7:9-10, 13-14; 2 Peter 1:16-19; Mark 9:2-10 (614). *"This is my beloved Son. Listen to him."*

Saturday, Aug 07, 2021

MEMORIAL OF SIXTUS II, POPE, AND COMPANIONS, MARTYRS

The courage to teach

Today's teachers have a tough job (which the pandemic only made more difficult). But imagine risking your life to teach about your faith. That's how it was "back in the day." In the year 258, Roman soldiers burst into the room where Sixtus was teaching, dragged him from the chair, and beheaded him in the street. Six deacons joined him in martyrdom that day. Many bishops, priests, and deacons were murdered during that persecution by the Roman Emperor Valerian. Next time you're in the pew, find Sixtus in Eucharistic Prayer I, the first one printed in your missalette. He's in the list that includes "Linus, Cletus, Clement," and other notables of the early church. When you get to the name Sixtus II, pause and remember his courageous sacrifice to pass on the faith.

TODAY'S READINGS: Deuteronomy 6:4-13; Matthew 17:14-20 (412). *"[I]f you have faith the size of a mustard seed . . . Nothing will be impossible for you."*

Invest just five minutes a day, and your faith will deepen and grow—a day at a time



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*Hail, Guardian of the Redeemer,
Spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary.
To you God entrusted his only Son;
in you Mary placed her trust;
with you Christ became man.*

*Blessed Joseph, to us too,
show yourself a father
and guide us in the path of life.
Obtain for us grace, mercy, and courage,
and defend us from every evil. Amen.*

*Salve, Guardián del Redentor
Esposo de la Bendita Virgen María.
A ti Dios te confió su único Hijo;
en ti Maria depositó su confianza;
contigo Cristo se hizo hombre.*

*Bendito José, para nosotros también
muéstrate padre
y guíanos en el camino de la vida.
Obten para nosotros gracia, misericordia y coraje
y defiéndenos de todo mal. Amén.*

Safe Environment Reporting

To report an incidence of suspected child sexual abuse, please contact your local law enforcement agency, or you may confidentially contact WV Child Protective Services at 800.352.6513. In addition to civil authorities, to report suspected cases of sexual abuse by personnel of the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston to the Diocese, please contact the Diocese at 888-434-6237 or 304-233-0880. Please visit www.dwc.org under "Accountability" for additional information and reporting methods.

Will or Estate Planning

Are you thinking of remembering St. Mary Church in your will or estate plans? A bequest through a Last Will and Testament is the simplest way of creating a lasting legacy of support for St. Mary Church. Bequests should be made out to:

"The Bishop of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston, or his successors in office," with a specification of the purpose for which the bequest is to be used, e.g. "for the use of St. Mary Parish"

READINGS FOR THE WEEK August 1, 2021

Sunday: Ex 16:2-4, 12-15/Ps 78:3-4, 23-24, 25, 54 [24b]/Eph 4:17, 20-24/Jn 6:24-35
Monday: Nm 11:4b-15/Ps 81:12-13, 14-15, 16-17 [2a]/Mt 14:13-21
Tuesday: Nm 12:1-13/Ps 51:3-4, 5-6ab, 6cd-7, 12-13 [cf. 3a]/Mt 14:22-36 or Mt 15:1-2, 10-14
Wednesday: Nm 13:1-2, 25—14:1, 26-29a, 34-35/Ps 106:6-7ab, 13-14, 21-22, 23 [4a]/Mt 15:21-28
Thursday: Nm 20:1-13/Ps 95:1-2, 6-7, 8-9 [8]/Mt 16:13-23
Friday: Dn 7:9-10, 13-14/Ps 97:1-2, 5-6, 9 [1a and 9a]/2 Pt 1:16-19/Mk 9:2-10
Saturday: Dn 6:4-13/Ps 18: 28, 3-4. 47 and 51/Mk 17:14-20
Next Sunday: 1 Kgs 19:4-8/Ps 34:2-3, 4-5, 6-7, 8-9 [9a]/Eph 4:30—5:2/Jn 6:41-51
©LPi

Catholic Bishop Abuse Reporting Service **ReportBishopAbuse.org (800) 276-1562**

The Catholic Bishop Abuse Reporting Service has been established to receive reports of sexual abuse and related misconduct by bishops, and to relay those reports to proper Church authorities for investigation. Where a report includes a crime, such as the sexual abuse of a minor, it will also be reported to civil authorities. Otherwise, reports will be kept confidential. If you have any other kind of complaint about a bishop—such as parish assignments, church closings, or homily contents—please address those directly to your diocesan or eparchial bishop instead. Sexual abuse by a priest, deacon or a staff member or volunteer of the Church should be reported to the Office of Safe Environment for the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston. So, to be sure you get the help you need, phone numbers and addresses may be found at www.dwc.org under the accountability tab. If you are the victim of sexual abuse (or any other crime), please contact local law enforcement.

18th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Lectionary: 113

Reading I

Ex 16:2-4, 12-15

The whole Israelite community grumbled against Moses and Aaron.

The Israelites said to them, "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!"

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 will I test them, to see whether they follow my instructions or not.

"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."

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."

Reading II

Eph 4:17, 20-24

Brothers and sisters:

I declare and testify in the Lord that you must no longer live as the Gentiles do, in the futility of their minds; that is not how you learned Christ, assuming that you have heard of him and were taught in him, as truth is in Jesus, that you should put away the old self of your former way of life,

corrupted through deceitful desires, and 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.

Gospel

Jn 6:24-35

When the crowd saw that neither Jesus nor his disciples were there, they themselves got into boats and came to Capernaum looking for Jesus. And when they found him across the sea they said to him,

"Rabbi, when did you get here?"

Jesus answered them and said, "Amen, amen, I say to you, you are looking for me not because you saw signs but because you ate the loaves and were filled.

Do not work for food that perishes but for the food that endures for eternal life, which the Son of Man will give you. For on him the Father, God, has set his seal."

So they said to him, "What can we do to accomplish the works of God?"

Jesus answered and said to them, "This is the work of God, that you believe in the one he sent."

So they said to him, "What sign 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."

So Jesus said to them,

"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."

So they said to him,

"Sir, give us this bread always."

Jesus said to them,

"I am the bread of life; whoever comes to me will never hunger, and whoever believes in me will never thirst."

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