

saint John fisher chapel

UNIVERSITY PARISH

July 25, 2021 ● The 17th Sunday in Ordinary Time

A Kean Perspective: "The Bread of Life Discourse"

The second year for our liturgical cycle, or Year B, follows the gospel of Mark, but there is a slight problem with that. Although Matthew and Luke's gospels are large enough to fill the Thirty-Four weeks of Ordinary Time with readings, as well as have a few left over for the other liturgical seasons, St. Mark's gospel is too short. Frankly, one will notice that the gospel readings from Mark's Gospel tend to be shorter than what is presented in the other two years, Year A and Year C. Again, St. Mark's Gospel is the shortest of those three gospels.

Besides making the gospel readings a little bit shorter, there is another way St. Mark's Gospel is helped out in order to cover all the weeks. For the next five weeks we'll hear portions of chapter six from St. John's Gospel. Much of the gospel is made up of the "Bread of Life Discourse", and the first portion is the miracle of the multiplication of the loaves and fishes. This is a crucial chapter for us to properly understand the Holy Eucharist.

First off, we need to remember that St. John's gospel was the last to be written, about 60 years after the death of Christ. The celebration of the Lord's Supper was well established by then. The theory is that the form of the celebration was so well known that St. John did not include the famous words, "take this all of you and eat of it . . ." because they were already a part of the early Church liturgy. St. John, instead, breezes through the formula of words used in the Lord's Supper and goes right to the washing of the disciples' feet.

That little fact makes Chapter six even more important for Eucharistic theology. The early Christians started with an Agape Meal (or a meal of "God's love") which incorporated the words of consecration noted in the above paragraph, but St. Paul notes that there was a question of how to best understand this sacred



meal, and how some were misunderstanding it. St. John's gospel makes the point clear of how we are to understand the Eucharist. By the fourth week of this five week cycle we will hear the culmination of St. John's Eucharistic theology: Jesus repeats three times that we must eat His flesh and drink His blood for us to have everlasting life. Some disciples would walk away because of the strength of these words. This understanding is spiritual and literal at the same time, but the strength of the passage is meant for Christians of all times and places. This is the teaching of the real presence of Jesus in the Holy Eucharist.

Of course, St. John is a good pupil of Jesus, and so he starts slow, introducing the theme of the Bread of Life by the multiplication of the loaves and fishes. That is what we hear this weekend. One small detail that was changed in this account of the multiplication is at the end when Jesus said to "gather up all the scraps so that none may be wasted." The other Gospels don't have that line. Even the scraps are precious just as every word that comes from our Lord is precious. It is a great clue for us to listen with greater attention to this highly important teaching.

We are still in the middle of summer, and this insertion of St. John's gospel is like a brief vacation from St. Mark's gospel. Let us listen well to the teaching contained within and be renewed just as a good vacation renews our minds and our strength.

—Fr. Jim Kean

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MASS TIMES

Tuesday: 12:15pm Mass
Wednesday: 12:15pm Mass
Thursday: 7:15pm Mass
Friday: 12:15pm Mass
Saturday: 8:30am Mass
Sunday: 10am & 6pm Mass

CONFESSION TIMES

Tuesday, 1:05-1:50pm (Drive-thru)
Thursday, 6pm in Church
Saturday, 9am in Church

PRAYER & DEVOTIONS

Eucharistic Adoration
1pm every Tuesday | 6pm every Thursday

Parish Rosary
8am every Saturday

PARISH CONTACTS

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NEXT SUNDAY'S READINGS

18th Sunday in Ordinary Time

First Reading: Exodus 16:2-4, 12-15

Psalms: 78:3-4, 23-24, 25, 54

Second Reading: Ephesians 4:17, 20-24

Gospel: John 6:24-35

MASS INTENTIONS THIS WEEK

SUN | July 25 at 10am - All Souls
at 6pm - Karen Flarity, Mary Peurach

TUE | July 27 at 12:15pm - John Magney

WED | July 28 at 12:15pm - Dr. C. Adrian Bodet Jr.
Elaine Bodet, Lucy Rose Golden

THU | July 29 at 7:15pm - Frank and Mary Leto & Kurt Leto

FRI | July 30 at 12:15pm - Frank and Mary Leto & Kurt Leto

SAT | July 31 at 8:30am - Vincent George, Mike & Nicole

Lake Orion Catholic Young Adults

GINJA

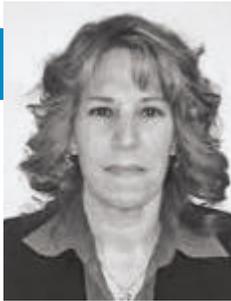
NINJA

SUNDAY, JULY 25 | 6-10 PM
ST. JOSEPH CHURCH, LAKE ORION

Mass 6pm @ Outdoor Chapel (by the pond)
Ninja Warrior Course 7pm @ Football Field

Ages - 21-29 | More info in the Facebook Event!

Visit us online at www.stjoelo.org/young-adults



FINANCE UPDATE

OFFERTORY REPORT

Lori Rafferty

Our Offertory is the primary source of funds for our day-to-day operations. The average weekly collection should be \$5,000 in order to meet our budgeted expenses.

For the week ending July 18, 2021:

Envelopes: \$988

Electronic: \$2,721

Total: \$3,709

For Fiscal Year July 1, 2021 to June 30, 2022

YTD Offertory Budgeted: \$12,707

YTD Offertory Collected: \$15,262

Over/(Short) from Budget: (\$2,555)



A BIGGER BOAT

Fr. John Carlin

So far, we have considered what conscience is, how it is formed and nurtured, and some tools to help better examine it so that we can know our sins and grow closer to God. We have also learned that to truly examine our conscience requires prayer and preparation so that we are ready to receive all the graces the Lord wants to give to us in the sacraments of confession and the holy Eucharist. Some people talk about not “getting anything out of Mass”, but the saints would first ask such a person, “how did you prepare for Mass?”. Do you watch TV right beforehand so that the images and ideas are still in your head, distracting you? Do you get into an argument and begin Mass frustrated or angry? Are you just thinking about what you will do after Mass or all the things you could be doing if you weren’t at church? These things distract our attention from God and can make the Mass seem boring, but if we prepare, even with just a few moments of quiet prayer and recollection before Mass, we are more disposed to receive the graces of the Mass. So with confession: before examining our conscience, we should take a moment to prepare, listening for what the Holy Spirit places in our hearts, so that we can examine our conscience well, make a good confession, and receive all the graces the Lord wants to give to us. Prayer and preparation are es-

sential, but I wanted to finish this brief series on examination of conscience today by looking at something called scrupulosity.

Normally, when people talk about scrupulosity, they talk about it as something bad; we say that people “struggle” with scrupulosity. But this is not entirely accurate. Scrupulosity is a keen (and often *felt*) awareness of our sinfulness. We usually recognize it as we’re leaving the confessional — as you walk out the door you begin to worry, “Did I say all of my sins? Did I say them well enough? Was I truly sorry for everything?” If this is a common or familiar experience for you after confession, you may “struggle” with the scrupulosity, too. However, as I said, scrupulosity itself is not bad. If anything, it has been the goal of this series to *increase* our scrupulously, to increase our awareness of our sinfulness so that we know what to confess. Where scrupulosity becomes a “struggle” is when we start to worry about these kinds of questions, leading to the bigger question, “am I really forgiven”. This doubt in God’s mercy or fear that we can’t receive it is never from the Lord. Doubt and fear are tools of the enemy that he always uses to twist our good desires out of proportion. Those who struggle with scrupulosity are motivated by a good desire – to please God. But fear and doubt often creep into the scrupulous soul, causing us to think more about ourselves than about God. We become scandalized by our own weaknesses, judging ourselves and thinking, “How can God ever love me;” or even doubting that I will ever be “good enough” for Him. These are all ways in which the devil twists scrupulosity back on ourselves and hurts our trust in God. But if we can put our eyes back on Him, it can take away that struggle.

The key is humility. “Humility is not thinking less of yourself; it is thinking of yourself less” (C.S. Lewis). God thinks the world of each of us. He loves us with all that He is, and it’s not because we are sinless – it is because He made us and we are His. Nothing can change that or take that away. It doesn’t take our sinfulness away either, but if we focus on God instead of ourselves, He will drive out our fear so that we are no longer scandalized by our frailty but, trusting in His strength, our scrupulous awareness of our sins helps us to trust God and love Him all the more. This is the power of a good examination of conscience.

I still have to figure out what I will write about next, but I hope you have found this series helpful in examining your conscience and growing in trust in the Lord.

God love you!

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