



ST. JOHN FISHER CHAPEL

University Parish

August 1, 2021 ● *The 18th Sunday in Ordinary Time*

A Kean Perspective: "What are you looking for?"

This weekend we listen to the second segment of Chapter six of St. John's gospel. Earlier in John's gospel there is a great moment when St. Andrew and another disciple begin to follow Jesus. Jesus turns, sees them and asks, "What are you looking for?" They had been disciples to St. John the Baptist and had just overheard him referring to Jesus as the "Lamb of God." Surely, St. Andrew and the other disciple must have had hearts burning with hope and were wondering if Jesus was the Messiah! However, when Jesus asked what they were looking for, they only said: "Where are you staying?" We can picture Jesus smiling in His response back to them, "Come and see."

Jesus' question is crucial for every disciple: *What are you looking for?* It is also an important idea for today's readings. What were the Israelites expecting from God or Moses in the first reading? What were the people expecting from Jesus in the gospel? For the multitudes following Jesus, many were looking for a show. Others were looking for someone who would meet their criteria for the Messiah. The most popular image for the Jewish messiah was to be a great political figure and warrior as King David was in his time. They were either looking for someone to fit into their preconceived notions of a messiah, or they might have been simply looking to be amazed. The Hebrew people in the desert had been looking for something similar. They had seen Moses do great miracles at the time of their flight from Egypt so why were they stuck starving in the desert? Why couldn't they just return to the "easy" life of their full fleshpots and the benefits of the highly civilized infrastructure they had found in mighty Egypt (even though they were

slaves there!)? Moses promised the Israelites that God would take care of them, but they grumbled anyways.

St. Andrew and the other unnamed disciple were looking for more than comfort, but they couldn't put into words exactly what they were looking for. Their simple answer, though, revealed that they at least wanted to be with Jesus as He was. They wanted to walk with Jesus and get to know Him, and they weren't looking for Jesus to conform to their expectations. It was that bond of affection and that deeper level of appreciation that caused the faithful disciples mentioned in the gospel to stay while others would leave at the end of Jesus' teaching. The Jewish leaders who were questioning Jesus wanted Jesus to prove Himself by performing great signs. Their attitude was one of "dazzle us, and we will follow you," even citing the miracles of Moses and the Manna that came down from heaven.



What's the lesson here? We can't approach Jesus and expect him to fit neatly into our lives; rather, we approach Jesus humbly and ask that we may enter into His life like St. Andrew and the other disciple. Often the world of entertainment, politics, or the corporate world will look for someone to fit an image to be their next star. Even today, some try to claim Jesus as the champion for their agenda or ideology. That is just wrong. Jesus is the Messiah, and we come to Him for nourishment, fulfillment, and salvation. Jesus doesn't change for us; we change because of Jesus.

-Fr. Jim Kean

ST. JOHN FISHER CHAPEL

UNIVERSITY PARISH

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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

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

Sunday, August 8, 2021

19th Sunday in Ordinary Time

First Reading: 1Kings 19: 4-8

Psalms: 34:2-3, 4-5, 6-7, 8-9

Second Reading: Ephesians 4:30-5:2

Gospel: John 6:41-51

MASS INTENTIONS THIS WEEK

SUN | August 1 at 10am - Parishioners of St. John Fisher
at 6pm - Parishioners of St. John Fisher

TUE | August 3 at 12:15pm - Don Nguyen
Josh

WED | August 4 at 12:15pm - Priestly Vocations
Sean Robinson

THU | August 5 at 7:15pm - John & Margaret O'Donnell
Martha Robinson

FRI | August 6 at 12:15pm - Mary Rush
Stanley Cosk

SAT | August 7 at 8:30am - Josephine Patrona

UPCOMING EVENTS

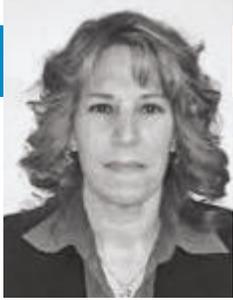


EUCCHARISTIC PROCESSION

In honor of the Feast of the Assumption

Sunday, August 15th

You're invited to join us for a Eucharistic Procession in honor of the Assumption of Our Blessed Mother following the 10am Mass on Sunday, Aug. 15. If you would like to help with the procession, we could use 4-6 volunteers to help hold the canopy. Contact Anna Eusebio at 248-842-8226.



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 25, 2021:

Envelopes: \$738

Electronic: \$2,798

Total: \$3,536

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

YTD Offertory Budgeted: \$16,244

YTD Offertory Collected: \$18,936

Over/(Short) from Budget: (\$2,692)



A BIGGER BOAT

Fr. John Carlin

Thank you again for all the birthday wishes and your warm welcome to St. John Fisher.

I know I celebrated mass here a few times with my classmate Fr. Drew and he always made a point of introducing me, but with my responsibilities at St. John Fisher starting to ramp up, I am beginning to feel more a part of this parish family and look forward to getting to know everyone.

For my bulletin article this week, I wanted to begin by explaining a bit about the title for my column, 'A Bigger Boat'. I would guess that most people's first thought goes to that famous line in the movie jaws when Brody first sees the giant shark and says to his buddy, "you're going to need a bigger boat". While the movie reference is part of it, I actually wanted to go back, way back to early church teaching and even before, in the book of Genesis, and see how a boat/ship has often been used as a symbol or type for the church, sailing toward her heavenly home.

For St. Peter and the early church fathers, Noah's ark was a type of the Church. Just as Noah's family and all the animals inside the ark were saved from certain death and destruction by the flood, so are all those



who have come inside the Church saved from eternal death and destruction. And just as Moses as an infant was set adrift on the water in a papyrus ark by his mother to save him from pharaoh's power, so are our infants saved from the powers of darkness by their parents who, trusting in God, surrender them to the waters of baptism. Even in the way our churches are built, where the people sit in the 'nave' of the church facing the altar: 'nave' (navis) is Latin for 'ship'. Again and again we see this typology of the Church as the one boat, the one ark through which we weather the storms of this world and are saved.

Yet, it is with great sorrow that we see more and more people leaving the church today. In the wake of recent scandals and accusations and cover-up, many people, especially young people, who still truly love God have become disillusioned with the Church and seek Him elsewhere. Would that we could say "we need a bigger boat". Alas, to those swimming away, it looks like the ship is sinking.

But it will not sink.

If we have learned anything from salvation history, we should recall that Jesus was in the boat asleep when His disciples called out to Him and He saved them. Jesus was in the boat when the disciples lowered their nets, though they had caught nothing all day, and caught so many fish that the boat was in danger of sinking. And recently we heard that Jesus is again in the boat teaching the crowds and feeding them with His life-giving word. Let us stay in the boat with Jesus. Let us pray for all those who have fallen away, that they might trust the Church again. And let us have faith that the Lord will one day give us a bigger boat.

God love you!

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