



SAINT JOAN of ARC NEWS

The members of St. Joan of Arc Parish are disciples of Jesus Christ, who recognize God's love for the world & are empowered by the Holy Spirit to proclaim the Gospel to all people through joyful worship, life-long education, compassionate service, responsible stewardship, & active community living.

~ Mission Statement - Pentecost 1998 ~

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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

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Trying NOT to Disturb the Sleeping:

Around this time of year, our family often heads north to spend a week at a cottage on Big Blue Lake near

Kalkaska. This year, my mom wanted to take a slight detour from the usual summer routine simply because it would have been the first big family trip without Dad. So my mom decided she would break up the summer and fall with a few mini-trips with her kids. My sister Jackie and I were first on the docket with a trip to the western side of Michigan. We traveled to Holland, Manistee (the infamous home of Fr. Rich), Frankfort, Glen Arbor, Leland, and Suttons Bay. We have such beauty in Michigan!

While driving through Manistee, we were on the lookout for markers like "Fr. Rich lived here" or "Fr. Rich went to school here" or "Fr. Rich dined here." While we didn't encounter any such signs, we did encounter a police motorcade and even a flying car! So, Manistee became a notable part of our journey! More on that in another article.

While we were doing the touristy stuff in Holland, I got the call from our neighbors at Connor Park Florist that some activity was happening at the Church. They were the first to alert me and the police that someone just drove up the ramps and through one of the Mack/Overlake entrance doors. So while my mom and sister were in this quaint and lovely gift shop looking at wooden tulips and ceramic vases, I was outside calling 911 and SCS Police dispatch to get someone to SJA ASAP! I then called Father Andrew, who stopped his grocery shopping experience, and Dina, who was at home, and both flew over to SJA right away.

Once I got to the point where I could return to my mom and sister, they showed me what they bought and wanted to know what was happening with all the calls I was making. "OH," I said, "someone just drove up the church ramp and into the entrance door on the corner of Overlake and Mack." I then showed them the pictures that Father Andrew and Dina were forwarding to me.

Knowing how fast news travels and how the story could get all kinds of different twists and personal interpretations, I

decided it would be best to write a short email to the parish community about what happened. Within an hour of the incident, a FOX 2 News Truck was already on-site, so I was glad to have alerted the parish community about the incident before it became a story on the news.

Later that evening, when we got back to our hotel in Holland (and Holland was much bigger than I thought), we figured the incident would be on either the 10 or 11 PM Fox 2 News. We already started the process of getting ready for bed as we all were pretty tired from the day when my sister said, "Oh, let's turn the TV back on and watch the 10 PM news." So we did. I was on my aero bed comfortably controlling the world from my cell phone while keeping an ear for a report on the SJA incident. After waiting for about 15 minutes, it was apparent the SJA incident wasn't going to be on the 10 PM news. What my ears DID hear were both my sister and mom sound asleep! Good grief. They had the remote.

Now, I brought my own Roku streaming stick (of course), which we used throughout the trip so we could watch our Detroit channels and our usual stuff while we traveled. With a Roku device, you can use an app on your phone to control the device and, in most cases, also power off the TV and use it for volume control. This typically works quite well when you're at home on your own network, but I wasn't sure how it would work with the configuration I had at the hotel. After tinkering with it for about 10 minutes from the comfort of my bed, it was apparent my remote solution wasn't going to work from my phone, so I had to search for the "real" remote in our darkened room. As I crawled about, trying not to make any noise so as to disturb either my sister or mom from their sleep, I found the remote. BUT, I had a big problem. The remote was secured firmly in my sister's hand. I could only roll my eyes. This was going to be a challenge. The task was to remove the remote without waking her. I tugged at the remote, but it didn't budge at all. My sister had that remote snuggly secured in her hand as if she were protecting the last bit of chocolate on earth. I sat for a few seconds and surveyed all my options. As I type this, I never thought about the most obvious solution: walk over to the TV and turn it off manually. Sometimes the most obvious is too obvious! I then thought that if I could lift a finger or two on her hand, it would give me enough room to wiggle the remote from her tight grip. So, I slowly

lifted her index finger. She didn't move at all. This was becoming a game of Olympic proportions. I tugged at the remote again, and while it moved a bit, it still didn't move enough to allow me to remove it from her hand. With a bit more work, I finally had possession of the imprisoned remote control. I then turned off the TV and crawled back into my bed without disturbing or waking either one of them! Who needed to watch the news or the Olympics; this video would have made a great story. While I failed to accomplish the task electronically through the app, there was a sense of great accomplishment of freeing that imprisoned remote from my sister's hands without disturbing a single nano-second of her sleep. I deserved an Olympic Gold for that Olympic task!

Last Chance Getaways and Vacations: As we enter the first week of August, many people will try to get in one last vacation or getaway before the fall. We need to look at this needed break as an opportunity to enjoy the sun, the beach, and our water sports. It's also an opportunity to get in some spiritual reading or quiet moments with the Lord. If you're headed up north, take a moment to stop by The Cross in the Woods. Use the time to read or pray. Listen to the "holier" music on your phone. Take a walk and pray the rosary. Sit along the shore and read sacred scripture. Just take the time to be with God!

If you can't get that last chance getaway in, do yourself a favor and enjoy some of the beauty in the area. Consider strolling down Lakeshore or visit one of the parks. Whether you travel far away or stay close to home, taking that extra quiet or downtime will make a difference in your life!

May each of us find the time we need to recharge and thus return home somewhat transformed and ready to begin anew. Yes, fall is almost here! So, take the time, make the time, to enjoy some of God's beauty around us! Before you know it, we'll be wearing sweaters, and soon after that, we'll be complaining about the snow while at the same time yearning for the beautiful summer days we currently have in our midst!

Enjoy the week. Know of my prayers.

In Christ,

gmb

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PICK OF THE WEEK

August 1, 2021

WATCH

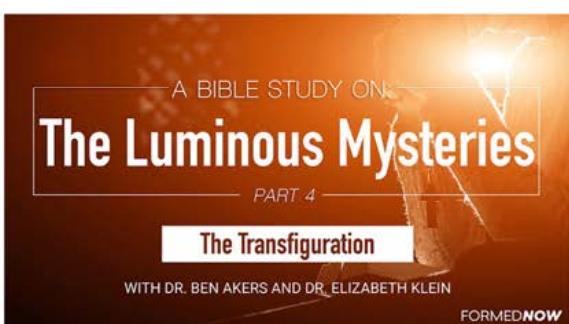
COMPANIONS IN SHIPWRECK

Good relationships are a vital part of human well-being. In fact, studies show that those with the healthiest relationships live the longest! But where can we see these friendships lived out? Look no further than the life of famed author J.R.R. Tolkien. The relationships he exhibited are a wonderful example for all of us to follow, especially with those we may disagree with. As Tolkien described marriage, it's all about being "companions in shipwreck."



LEARN

A BIBLE STUDY ON THE LUMINOUS MYSTERIES: THE TRANSFIGURATION

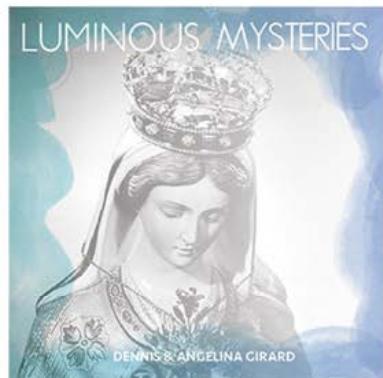


This week we celebrate the feast of the Transfiguration, the mountaintop manifestation of Christ's glory that we read about in the Gospel. As we recall this wondrous event, however, many questions might come to mind. Why did Moses and Elijah appear? Why did Jesus only bring Peter, James, and John? Hear the answers to these questions and more in this episode of

LISTEN

LUMINOUS MYSTERIES

The Transfiguration is part of the Luminous Mysteries, which were introduced to the Church in 2002 by St. John Paul II. These mysteries recall events that demonstrate the light of Christ during his public ministry. On this feast day, let us ponder this miraculous episode of Jesus' life by praying along with this recording of the Rosary.



Our parish has a FORMED subscription.

To set up your free account visit formed.org/signup and select our parish.



Reporting Sexual Abuse

Individuals with knowledge of sexual abuse by clergy or other Church representatives are urged to contact local law enforcement and/or the Michigan Attorney General's Office at 844-324-3374 or aginvestigations@michigan.gov.

Individuals also may contact the Archdiocese of Detroit by visiting protect.aod.org calling the toll-free, 24/7 victim assistance line at 866-343-8055 or by emailing vac@aod.org. There are no time limits or restrictions on individuals wishing to report abuse.

Every complaint shared with the Archdiocese of Detroit, regardless of its source or the date of the alleged activity, is reported to civil authorities. No complaints are held back, pre-screened or disregarded.

SJA Is Asking For Your SMILE!

Make all your Amazon purchases through Amazon Smile!

You can use your current Amazon account and search for St. Joan of Arc. Visit smile.amazon.com there are no additional fees and .5% of all sales will be donated back to our parish/school.



Can Tab Recycling

We are back to recycling can tabs. All proceeds will benefit the Ronald McDonald House Charities.

How you can help: Spread the word! Let your family, friends, co-workers, and classmates know that their small pop tabs, food can tabs all can make a big difference for Ronald McDonald House Charities.

Donations can be dropped off in the buckets at church, brought to the Parish Center, or pick-up may be arranged by calling:

Frank Poeschel at 586-776-8746.



8th Grade Can and Bottle Drive

The Class of 2022 is now responsible for the can and bottle drive.

This is an important fundraiser that helps defray the cost of their graduation events.

Bring your returnables in bags to the Parish Center - West SIDE DOOR - (near Father Andrew's House) please. There is a large plastic bin with a lid that they can be placed in..

Or you can arrange a pick-up by calling or texting Matt at 313-683-1972.

The Class of 2022





stjoan.net

A foundation of faith and excellence.

St. Joan of Arc
CATHOLIC SCHOOL

Join our team!

Check out these
opportunities at our school

- **Middle school math teacher**
- **Spanish teacher**
- **Substitute teachers**
- **Afterschool band director**

learn more at
stjoan.net/careers

Calendar of Events / Words on the Word

Weekly Calendar of Events

Monday, August 2nd

7:00 am Morning Mass - Live Streamed

Tuesday, August 3rd

7:00 am Morning Mass - Live Streamed

10:00 am Funeral -Simone Glowaz & Nicole Glowaz

Wednesday, August 4th

7:00 am Morning Mass - Live Streamed

Thursday, August 5th

7:00 am Morning Mass - Live Streamed

7:00 pm Holy Hour (Praise & Worship)
Live Streamed

Friday, August 6th

7:00 am Morning Mass - Live Streamed

5:00 pm Wedding of Katie Church & Matt Buszek

Saturday, August 7th

11:00 am Reconciliation

11:30 am Baptism of Charlotte L. Schumaker
12:30 pm Baptism of Lillian Mary Riddle
1:30 pm Baptism of Remi Theadora Humbach

4:00 pm Mass - Live Streamed

6:00 pm Mass - Live Streamed

Sunday, August 8th

8:00 am Sunday Mass - Live Streamed

10:00 am Sunday Mass - Live Streamed

12:00 pm Sunday Mass - Live Streamed

Words on the Word

August 1, 2021 — The New Normal

The so-called “old normal” – the old way of looking at the world and doing things – seems to be gone, in many respects.

And a so-called “new normal” – a new paradigm, seems to be taking hold.

Much of this, to be sure, is the result of the coronavirus pandemic. The changes in attitudes and behaviors and procedures were widespread. Among other things, the labor markets have been roiled considerably.

If simply driving past all of the “Now Hiring” and “Help Wanted” signs doesn’t make it obvious enough, one simply has to look at the headlines.

“U.S. job openings hit record 9.2 million,” the headline of one internet reporting service began a few weeks ago, “but businesses can’t find enough workers to fill them.”

The story went on to describe how people were leaving the workforce, or being recruited from competitors; how job openings in almost every industry greatly exceeded the number of workers available, or willing, to fill them.

It’s a situation that likely will find some resolution over the coming months and years, the story explains, but, at least for now, it’s the world in which we find ourselves.

A world significantly different than what we are generally accustomed to, as far as jobs go, where there are typically more candidates than openings.

It all points to the importance of being open to change, in whatever ways we might encounter it, so that we can keep our eyes fixed on what really matters.

“I declare and testify in the Lord that … you should put away the old self of your former way of life,” St. Paul says in today’s second reading to the Ephesians. “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.”

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Mass Intentions / Weekly Readings

| Mass Intentions | | Weekly Readings | |
|------------------|--|---|---|
| Monday | August 2, 2021 Weekday Saint Eusebius of Vercelli, Bishop; Saint Peter Julian Eymard, Priest (Green/White/White) | Monday, August 2 | Friday, August 6 |
| 7:00 a.m. | Phyllis Nolan | Numbers 11:4b-15 Matthew 14:13-21 | Daniel 7:9-10, 13-14 Mark 17:14-20 |
| Tuesday | August 3, 2021 Weekday (Green) | Tuesday, August 3 | Saturday, August 7 |
| 7:00 a.m. | Marie Terese Tobin | Numbers 12:1-13 Matthew 14:22-15:1:2, 10-14 | Deuteronomy 6:4-13 Matthew 17:14-20 |
| Wednesday | August 4, 2021 Saint John Vianney, Priest (White) | Wednesday, August 4 | Sunday, August 8 |
| 7:00 a.m. | Marilyn Chevalier | Numbers 13:1-2,25-14:1, 26-29a, 34-35 Matthew 15:21-28 | 1 Kings 19:4-8 Ephesians 4:30-5:2 John 6:41-51 |
| Thursday | August 5, 2021 Weekday The Dedication of the Basilica of Saint Mary Major (Green/White) | Thursday, August 5 | |
| 7:00 a.m. | Mike McSweeney | Numbers 20:1-13 Matthew 16:13-23 |  |
| Friday | August 6, 2021 The Transfiguration of the Lord (White) | I Am The Resurrection & The Life | |
| 7:00 a.m. | Kevin Brys | “Heavenly Father, welcome home those who you have called from this world and grant peace and consolation to their families.” | |
| Saturday | August 7, 2021 Weekday Saint Sixtus II, Pope and Companions, Martyrs; Saint Cajetan, Priest BVM (Green/Red/White/White) | Mary Margaret Valenti George McCabe Robert Root (Son of Stefan and Rayna Karpuk) | |
| 4:00 p.m. | Don Ancypa, Bonnie Batche, Rita and Peter Conte, the deceased members of the Walsh Family and Special Intentions for the Thomas Family, the J. Champine Family and Madeline Valdez and Prayerful appreciation for the work of the Priests and Staff of St. Joan of Arc | “I said to the man who stood at the Gate of the Year: Give me a light that I may tread safely into the unknown. and he replied: Go out into the darkness and put your hand into the hand of God. That shall be to you better than light, and safer than a known way.” |  |
| 6:00 p.m. | Anna Maria Dolunt | Minnie Louise Haskins | |
| Sunday | August 8, 2021 Nineteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time (Green) | Light of the Spirit Prayer Group 2nd and 4th Wednesday of each month at | |
| 8:00 a.m. | For the intentions of Saint Joan of Arc Parishioners |  St Basil the Great Community Room 22851 Lexington Avenue Eastpointe, MI 48021 | |
| 10:00 a.m. | Duane Gore | We pray the Rosary @ 6:30 pm, followed by a meeting at 7pm. | |
| 12:00 p.m. | John Felice and the deceased members of the Giroux and Carroll Families | For those wanting individual prayers please be there between 6 – 6:55 pm | |
| | | We hope that you can join us! | |

Tire Tracks in the d'Arc



The most august of all: I must admit to being prone to a touch of melancholy at this time of year, as we enter into August. I love the summer months, but I

always begin to notice the shorter evenings, the talk of the school year beginning soon, and those “summer’s ending soon” TV commercials. It all goes by so fast and I can get distracted by the cooling embers of late-summer. But this time of the summer is also an awesome time to be Catholic, if we’re paying attention. The Church sets before us some “powerhouse saints” and holy days - saints who, in the words of the hymn, were “true apostles, faithful prophets, saints who set their world ablaze.”

We ended July with the Feast day of our own Blessed Fr. Solanus Casey (July 30) and the founder of the Jesuit order St. Ignatius of Loyola (July 31). Today, (August 1) is the Memorial of St. Alphonsus Liguouri, though the celebration is suppressed in favor of the Sunday solemnity. St. Alphonsus was the 18th century moral theologian, Bishop and Doctor of the Church, who founded the Redemptorist congregation, dedicated primarily to parish and foreign missions. Wednesday (August 4) is the Memorial of St. John Vianney, patron saint of parish priests, who called thousands back to a life of holiness by his own example of prayer, humility and simplicity of life.

These saints reveal Christ to us by their personal striving for holiness. They lived their lives with the same temptations and stresses we endure. Blessed Fr. Solanus Casey suffered failure in his studies and rejection from seminary. St. Ignatius struggled with anger, pride and lust, St. Alphonsus Liguouri was crippled by terrible scrupulosity. St. John Vianney was thought to be too unintelligent to be given any great responsibility. But each one answered the Lord’s call to personal holiness. By God’s grace, these saints overcame temptation and discouragement to reveal the Lord by their lives. On Friday, we will celebrate the Feast of the Transfiguration, when Jesus revealed His full divinity as the Son of God to Peter, James and John on Mount Tabor.

And the Litany goes on throughout the awesome month of August: the Memorials of St. Clare, St. Jane Frances de Chantel, St. Teresa of the Cross and St.

Dominic; the Feast of the martyr, St. Lawrence; the Memorial of St. Maximilian Kolbe; the Solemnity of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary into Heaven; the Memorials of St. Bernard, Doctor of the Church and Pope St. Pius X; the Memorial of the Queenship of the Blessed Virgin Mary; the Feast of the Apostle, St. Bartholomew; the Memorials of St. Monica and her son, the great philosopher, theologian, Bishop and Doctor of the Church, St. Augustine; and the Passion of Saint John the Baptist.

What an incredible month of opportunity to recognize the richness of our faith tradition. As the author of the letter in the second reading for the Transfiguration on August 6th says, we have been “eyewitnesses of his majesty” through all these holy men and women. These constitute the cloud of witnesses, the Church Triumphant, in whose company we celebrate our faith around the altar every day and at every Holy Mass. I encourage you this month to delve into the lives of these great saints and implore their intercession. Between them, they encompass just about every struggle you and I may ever experience. And they persevered to the end and were rewarded in eternal glory. They are truly “august.”

County Fair: Speaking of “powerhouses,” August means the Monroe County Fair and the tractor-pull! Two years ago I wasn’t able to make it and last year was cancelled (hence my own little tractor-pull), but generally it’s an annual pilgrimage. I love a good county fair, but Monroe pulls out all the stops. I can usually only make one day of the fair, so it’s always the Thursday... the day of the tractor-pull. I love everything about the fair, the atmosphere, the celebration of agriculture, the piglet race (yes, really... little pigs wear numbered bibs on a track!). There’s the usual fair-food staples, including fries and vinegar in a bucket. There are traditional restored tractors on display. There is an amazing RV open-house, for anyone with a spare \$200,000 burning a hole in their pocket (that’s not me, but they are awesome to tour around). The 4H barn is always worth a look. I pick-up creative project ideas from there. We’ve have some odd July weather as we all know, but weather permitting, the tractor-pull is the highlight of the day. I would hesitate to include it in the category of “celebration of agriculture” as those tractors bear little resemblance to anything you’d see on a farm.



The original tractor-pulls were similar to the one my friend, Fr. Mark and I held with our tractors last September: two tractors back to back connected by a heavy chain.... And pull! Today, highly modified, ridiculously over-powered and highly polished “tractors” compete individually on a dirt track, pulling a weighted sled to see which can pull the furthest distance. It’s smokey, really loud and quite absurd, but also quite amazing! There are usually exploded engines and clouds of ominous smoke and the beautiful sight of an old reliable 1940s farm tractor coming to the rescue to tow away the crippled monster.... Ultimately, the “celebration of agriculture” wins out!

Are You “Fed-up?”: “Sir, give us this bread always.” The people in today’s gospel like what Jesus is doing. They have just witnessed Jesus miraculously feeding the 5,000. Clearly, He’s something special. If He can do that, if He can prevent them from being hungry, they want Him around. Jesus knew they recognized the miracle before them and that they wanted to make Him their King, so He’d slipped away. But they pursued Him. They still remembered Moses doing this for them. *“Our ancestors ate the manna in the desert,”* they said. Jesus corrected them—it wasn’t Moses who did this for you, it was God. The people are still thinking about their stomachs. They want more of this, whoever is providing it. Jesus begins to push the idea further. God has already provided their “manna,” the bread of life—God has provided His Son, Jesus. Whoever comes to *Him* will never be hungry again. He is the true bread from Heaven, not manna, not barley loaves and fish, but His own Body and Blood to be sacrificed on the cross and made present on our altar to this day, in the Eucharist. Feed on this, and we’ll have the life He intends. Believe what He teaches and act on it and we’ll never thirst. But we can’t expect to only accept Jesus with our own way of thinking. Being a disciple of Jesus demands the expansion of our minds to place everything in category of *“the possible.”* After all, He’s God. And I don’t want a God who will only do what my mind understands. You are in my prayers this week. God is bigger than that.

Fr. Andrew

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An Act of Spiritual Communion

It has long been a Catholic understanding that when circumstances prevent one from receiving Holy Communion, it is possible to make an Act of Spiritual Communion which is a source of grace.

Spiritual Communion means uniting one's self in prayer with Christ's sacrifice and worshipping him in his Body and Blood. The most common reason for making an Act of Spiritual Communion is when a person cannot attend Mass.

Acts of Spiritual Communion increase our desire to receive sacramental Communion and help us avoid the sins that would make us unable to receive Holy Communion worthily.

A Prayer for Spiritual Communion

*My Jesus, I believe that you are present
in the Most Holy Sacrament.*

*I love you above all things and I desire to receive you in my soul.
Since I cannot at this moment receive you sacramentally,
Come at least spiritually into my heart.*

*I embrace you as if you were already there
And unite myself wholly to you.
Never permit me to be separated from you.*

Amen.

NINETEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME – AUGUST 8

Reading One – 1 Kgs 19:4-8

Elijah went a day's journey into the desert, until he came to a broom tree and sat beneath it. He prayed for death saying: "This is enough, O LORD! Take my life, for I am no better than my fathers." He lay down and fell asleep under the broom tree, 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. 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.

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

R. Taste and see the goodness of the Lord.

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.

R. Taste and see the goodness of the Lord.

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.

R. Taste and see the goodness of the Lord.

Look to him that you may be radiant with joy and your faces may not blush with shame. When the afflicted man called out, the LORD heard, and from all his distress he saved him.

R. Taste and see the goodness of the Lord.

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.

R. Taste and see the goodness of the Lord.

Reading Two – Eph 4:30—5:2

Brothers and sisters: Do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, with which you were sealed for the day of redemption. All bitterness, fury, anger, shouting, and

reviling must be removed from you, along with all malice. And be kind to one another, compassionate, forgiving one another as God has forgiven you in Christ.

So be imitators of God, as beloved children, and live in love, as Christ loved us and handed himself over for us as a sacrificial offering to God for a fragrant aroma.

Alleluia – Jn 6:51

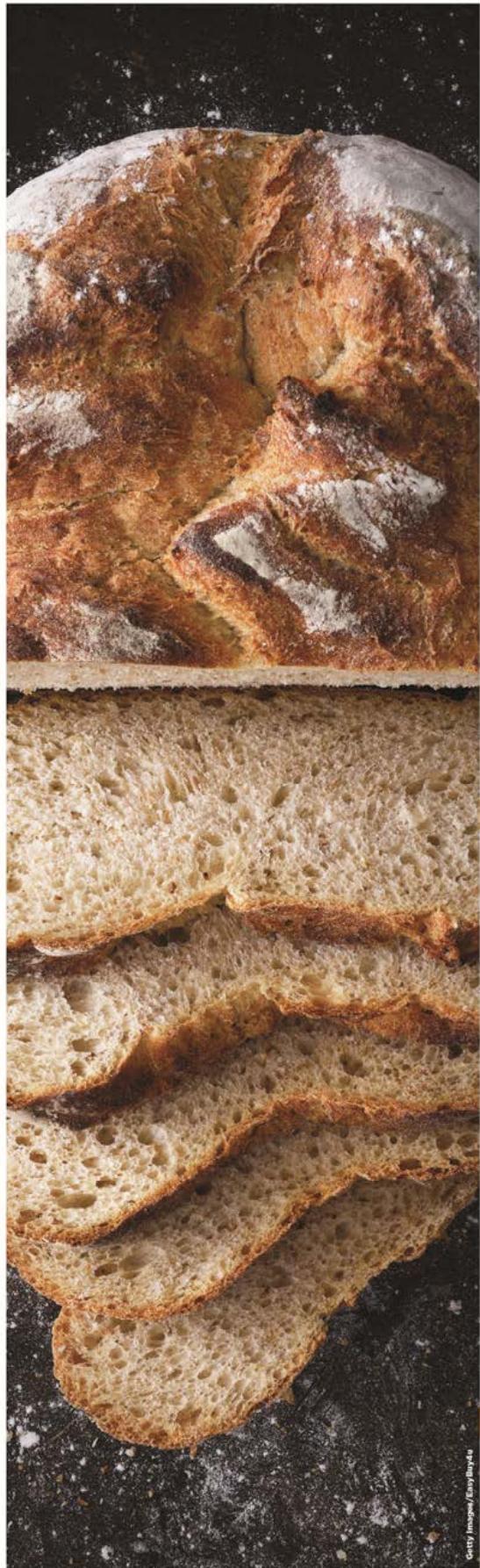
Alleluia, alleluia.

I am the living bread that came down from heaven, says the Lord; whoever eats this bread will live forever.

Alleluia, alleluia.

Gospel – Jn 6:41-51

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'?" Jesus answered and said to them, "Stop murmuring among yourselves. No one can come to me unless the Father who sent me draw him, and I will raise him on the last day. It is written in the prophets: *They shall all be taught by God*. Everyone who listens to my Father and learns from him comes to me. Not that anyone has seen the Father except the one who is from God; he has seen the Father. Amen, amen, I say to you, whoever believes has eternal life. 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."



August 1, 2021

Written by
THE
FAITHFUL
DISCIPLE

Eighteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Ex 16:2-4, 12-15 | Eph 4:17, 20-24 | Jn 6:24-35

GROW AS A DISCIPLE | PRAY, STUDY, ENGAGE, SERVE

In our house, we know we've got a situation when we run out of bread. It's the staff of life, yes, but also the stuff that makes toast, goes with soup or salad, and smells so good when we bake it ourselves. So perhaps some of us can relate to the Israelites in the first reading as they "grumbled against Moses and Aaron," before the Lord promised to "rain down bread from heaven for [them]." On a deeper level, perhaps we also truly understand the importance of what Jesus tells his disciples in today's Gospel: that the bread from heaven which the Father gives will not only satisfy their physical hunger, but give life to the world. Jesus says, "I am the bread of life; whoever comes to me will never hunger, and whoever believes in me will never thirst." Just as the disciples heartily responded "give us this bread always," today's readings encourage us to long not only for all good gifts from the Father, but specifically for that one, unique gift of the Son whose nourishment to us in the Eucharist transforms us and "gives life to the world."

GO EVANGELIZE

PRAYER, INVITATION, WITNESS, ACCOMPANIMENT

Like many Catholics, I attended Mass online for much of 2020 and the first half of 2021. Initially, it seemed like enough, and I was immensely grateful for the opportunity to hear the Word of God, see the Lord in the Eucharist, and to receive him spiritually. However, as we began to return to church this past spring, I truly felt the enormity of what I had been missing: receiving the Eucharist, and doing so within a community. As we hear Christ's words in the bread of life discourse over the next few Sundays, the magnitude of God's gracious gift should become ever more apparent. When we receive the Eucharist at Mass, we partake in the body and blood of Jesus, sharing in the divine banquet that leads us to everlasting life, and drawing closer to Jesus and to one another in the process. Nourished by his presence within us, we can then go out and share the bread of life with others. What that looks like will differ for each of us, but ultimately it is all for the purpose of accomplishing the works of God: believing in the One he sent and giving witness to that belief in all we say and do.

ACTION Paul's Letter to the Ephesians admonishes his listeners to "put on the new self, created in God's way in righteousness and holiness of truth." As we begin each day this week, we can pray for the grace to "put on a new self" and let go of those things that get in the way of our own holiness.

*Spend an hour
with me.*

-Jesus

HOLY HOURS

*7-8 pm. Thursdays
in the Church.*

*Join us for Praise
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weeks 1 through 3
each month and
silent adoration
week 4.*

St. Basil the Great's Annual RUMMAGE SALE

Friday, Aug. 13th

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Sunday, Aug. 15th- 9:30 AM- 1 PM



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We will begin accepting donations July 19 on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays from 10am until 2pm in the social hall. Please donate working, clean, usable items which are suitable for a church rummage sale.

We will not be accepting any of the following: clothing, encyclopedias, textbooks, Readers Digest, computers, televisions and other electronics, stuffed animals, bowling balls, healthcare items, weapons, engines or motors. We will be accepting other books.

If you have any questions, need items picked up,
and/or would like to volunteer, please call Rita or Tom at 586-776-4481.

Prayers Needed

PRAY FOR THE SICK - PARISHIONERS

Sharon Adams
Geraldine Atkeson
Ted Barthel
Atina Beaugrand
Geri Beaugrand
Theresa Bertelsen
Rose Marie Carroll
David Clinchoc
Ed Cole
Mary Ellen Cooper
Victoria Cornwell
James Czech
Joan DeDene
Catherine DeRose
Nick DiCresce
Julie Doty

Marie DuPont
Donald Emmerich
Susan Federoff
Louise Fetherolf
Taylor Fisher
Nora Anne Francis
Sylvia Gentile
Mary and Don Godfrey
Jane Gora
Larry Graham
Geoffrey Greve
James Gutowski
Rich Hanselman
Alleyn Hunt
Joan Ireland
James Kammer

Bruce Kaselitz
Marilyn Kiefer
Pat Kohlitz
Catherine Konen
Edward Krappmann
Al Kraska
Concetta Leone
Dotty Lubinski
Janet Malaski
Christopher Manning
Joan Mannino
Lee Majewski
Ed Marosso
Karen McMahon
Dee Misuraca
Mark Moffitt

Jennie Mooney
Jessica Nehro
Margaret Obrzut
Mark Oumedian
Toni Pantano
Fern Pascany
Wayne Pepper
Salvatore Promesso
Sr. Alice Riegel
Suzanne Roland
Jennifer Rose
Victoria Rydholm
Doreen Saur
Alex Scapini
John Smigels
Terri Smigels

Kathleen Smith
Cathy Spindler
Robert Stasak
Virginia Stieber
Beverly Taylor
James Thompson
Maxine Uniewski
Audrey VanBecelaere
Eileen Wallace
Audrey Weekley
William Woodruff
Chuck Wolschlager
Marion Zapotski

Pray for the Sick List: Please note that we regularly clear the "Pray for the Sick List" because the list grows beyond our space allocation and we don't always hear from people when they've gotten better. If you would like to add a person please call the Parish Center front desk at 586.777.3670 or send an email to our general inbox at info@sjacs.org.

PRAY FOR OUR MEN & WOMEN IN THE MILITARY

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Bringing Home the Word

Eighteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time (B)

August 1, 2021

Quit Grumbling!

By Fr. Mark Haydu, LC

Grumbling is terrible. It spreads discontent, discouragement, a negative spirit. It tells others you are unhappy and tries to drag them down. The Israelites grumbled against Moses and, indirectly, against God. He had taken them from slavery, yes, but led them into the desert with poor food and continual wanderings. At least as slaves they had food to eat and knew where they were. The devil can also trick us into believing that Jesus has done us no favors in saving us from the slavery of sin and feeding us with the gospel as we wander after his will.

Sunday Readings

Exodus 16:2–4, 12–15

Here in the wilderness the whole Israelite community grumbled against Moses and Aaron.

Ephesians 4:17, 20–24

You should put away the old self of your former way of life, corrupted through deceitful desires.

John 6:24–35

[Jesus said,] "You are looking for me not because you saw signs but because you ate the loaves and were filled."

Jesus faces this shortsightedness. After he multiplies the bread and feeds the people, they follow him—but not because they want to convert and begin living the life of generosity. They follow him because they got their fill. They want a God that satisfies and takes care of them. They want a credit-card God, an unending source of funds to bail them out—not a God who offers salvation through conversion and generosity.

It is common to want a God who obeys us and not the other way around. Saint Jerome went into the desert, just like the Egyptians, to learn this lesson of humble obedience. Rather than grumble, he prayed for conversion. He learned that there is no doubt Jesus gives us all we could need, but we must expand our hearts and minds to receive it. Conversion is stretching our limits to the bountiful measure of God rather than grumbling and shrinking him to our miserly standards. +

Some want a credit-card God, an unending source of funds to bail them out.

A Word from Pope Francis

Dear brothers and sisters who are ill, your sickness makes you in a particular way one of those "who labor and are burdened," and thus attract the eyes and heart of Jesus. In him, you will find light to brighten your darkest moments and hope to soothe your distress. He urges you: "Come to me."

—World Day of the Sick, February 11, 2020



REFLECTION QUESTIONS

REFLECTION QUESTIONS

- Do I need a bit more time praying with God to learn and enjoy his ways?
- How can I accept all the good God gives me, and desire his will above my own?

Prearrange My Heart

By Fr. Bruce Lewandowski, CSsR

My mother asked me to go with her to help prearrange her funeral. A little time has passed since she first asked. We haven't gone yet, so I've had some time to think about it. Slogans like, "Save now, rest in peace later," and, "We put them in the ground, no money down," and, "You only get one chance to make a lasting impression" have been running through my mind. You must have a sense of humor about this. I always smile when I see the sign for Burns Funeral Home & Crematory.

I understand that families can be especially vulnerable when they lose a loved one and that the argument in favor of prearrangements is heavily on the side of making important decisions about death and burial well in advance of that emotionally charged experience. It makes sense. The stress of planning will be over; attention can be given to other important details.

It also makes sense that prearrangement can help lock in the price of the burial and all that accompanies it. The idea of a payment plan, not having to pay out a large sum all at once, makes even more sense—and it's easy on the wallet. If death isn't imminent, plans can even be altered, sometimes without incurring any further expense. All good, financially sound ideas.

From a practical perspective, all that I've read makes me think we should do



this. After all, my mom wants to. Why not? But truth be told, I feel a lot of personal resistance. Not because I don't trust the funeral home. Or because I don't feel we'll get a good deal. It's not because I worry about the expense. And it's not because we haven't found the right funeral home.

I realize I'm resisting because I don't want to face the raw, heart-wrenching truth that someday my mom will die, and my brother and sisters and I will have to figure out what life will be like without her. The grace of that moment cannot be paid for in advance, neatly organized or prearranged.

Just thinking about mom's funeral has caused me to rearrange my thinking about death, my emotions, and my relationship with her. I'm thinking about life in a way I had not before. I find myself suddenly tangled up in the stages of loss and grief: denial, anger, bargaining, and all the rest. I wonder how long it takes to get to the singularly, unique experience of acceptance. And when she dies, what then? When death does come, the saving mercy of Jesus, for her and for us, is all that is truly prearranged. +

Considering preparing for a funeral in advance stirs the emotions.



Lord, you are the bread of love, compassion, and peace. Strengthen me with this bread so I can serve others.

—From *Faithful Meditations for Every Day in Ordinary Time*, Rev. Warren J. Savage and Mary Ann McSweeney

WEEKDAY READINGS

August 2–7

Monday, Weekday:
Nm 11:4b–15 / Mt 14:13–21
Tuesday, Weekday: Nm 12:1–13 / Mt 14:22–36 or Mt 15:1–2, 10–14
Wednesday, St. John Vianney:
Nm 13:1–2, 25–14:1, 26–29a, 34–35 / Mt 15:21–28

Thursday, Weekday:
Nm 20:1–13 / Mt 16:13–23
Friday, Transfiguration of the Lord:
Dn 7:9–10, 13–14 / 2 Pt 1:16–19 / Mk 9:2–10
Saturday, Weekday:
Dt 6:4–13 / Mt 17:14–20



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