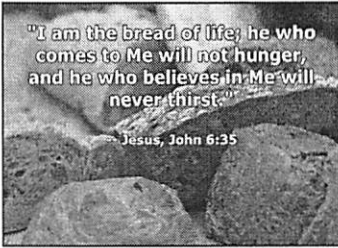


August 1st - Eighteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time



MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK

Saturday, July 31

9:00am

4:30pm † *Esther Grey*

Sunday, August 1

8:00am *St. John Parish*

10:00am *Mary Ann Elsbernd*
(bday)

12:00pm † *Hilda Escoto*

Monday, August 2

9:00am † *Leticia Palpalatoc (2)*

Tuesday, August 3

9:00am † *Leticia Palpalatoc (3)*

Wednesday, August 4

9:00am † *Leticia Palpalatoc (4)*

Thursday, August 5

9:00am † *Leticia Palpalatoc (5)*

Friday, August 6

9:00am † *Leticia Palpalatoc (6)*

Saturday, August 7

9:00am † *Leticia Palpalatoc (7)*

4:30pm

From the Desk of the Pastor

Today's reading from the Gospel of John shows how easily faith in Jesus can be based on the wrong thing. The crowd that eats its fill of the bread and fish that Jesus has miraculously provided for them a day before, is ready to believe in the one who can and will take care of their physical needs.

Thus their first reaction to this event is to declare Jesus "the Prophet, the one who is to come into the world" and to seek to make him king. When Jesus escapes from them, they get into boats, cross the Sea of Galilee, and find him on the other side. Physical satisfaction is a powerful drive that can even be a means by which people interpret the value of their faith.

What follows is a dialogue in which Jesus seeks to help them seek something else and the people seek to make Jesus conform to their own wishes. Jesus tells them that they should be working for the food for eternal rather than "the food that perishes". The people seem to begin on a promising note by asking how they can do this work of God but soon would come back and say, "Sir, give us this bread always" they do not seem to get it.....

How often do we bargain with God for God's work to be directed to our own convenience? Do we ask and pray that "our will" be done to give us what we ask, rather than "His Will to be done"?

At times, do we find ourselves squeezing belief in God into the matrix of our own wishes and appetites ?

PARISH COMMUNITY NEWS

The Church is open for weekend Masses

Saturday Mass at 4:30pm and Sunday Masses at 8am & 10am in English and 12 noon en español

The church is open for personal prayer and Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament on Sundays from 7:30am to 1:00pm.

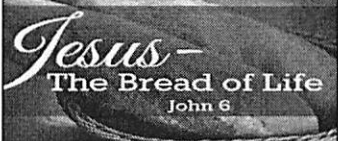
We pray the rosary at 9:30am in English and at 11:30am in Spanish. Come and join us in praying the rosary.

The Parish thanks the Knights of Columbus, Council 615 and our liturgical ministers who generously offer their time, talent and treasure in faithful stewardship every weekend, keeping watch in the church and taking care of the church.

Jesus said...

I Am

So They Asked Him, "What
Miraculous Sign Then Will
You Give That We May See
It And Believe You? What
Will You Do?"
-John 6:30



SECOND COLLECTION

Today's Second Collection is for the **Reserve Fund** of St. John the Evangelist. This account was established to help fund the on-going major maintenance and needs of the Parish of St. John. Thank you for your continued generous support.

LAST WEEK'S COLLECTION

COLECTA DE LA SEMANA PASADA

July 19th - July 26th, 2021

Weekend Offering.....\$2,138.41

In today's Gospel, there are four exchanges between Jesus and the crowd. In the first, the crowd, having followed Jesus to Capernaum, asks a very matter of fact question: "Rabbi, when did you get here?" Jesus replies by naming their motivation in pursuing him. Jesus challenges them to see beyond the fulfillment of their material needs. The crowds have followed Jesus because they have been fed. They ought to be seeking out Jesus because he can give them eternal life.

As the second dialogue begins, it seems that the crowd might be on their way to accepting Jesus and his mission. They ask: "What can we do to accomplish the works of God?" Jesus replies that they must have faith in the one sent from God. But in the third dialogue, the crowd reveals their inability to see Jesus' true identity. They ask Jesus for a sign so that they might know that Jesus is from God. Jesus has just fed more than 5000 people. What more is expected?

The fourth dialogue reveals the crowd's blindness. Jesus answers plainly that he himself is the Bread of Life they seek. Jesus himself is the Bread of Life who will satisfy every hunger and thirst. This is the first of several such statements found in John's Gospel. We understand these better when we remember that God revealed his name to the people of Israel as "I am," as Yahweh. Jesus is now claiming this name for himself.

"The Bread of Life Discourse" is famous and profound—it tells us so much about our relationship with God. God desires an intimate, personal relationship with us. God wants to feed us with "food that endures for eternal life".

God has fed God's people throughout history. In Exodus, we hear about the Israelites, who are wandering in the desert and starving. After leading them out of bondage in Egypt, God does not abandon them, literally raining bread down on them every morning. Our Psalm tells us that the Israelites ate "the bread of angels" (Ps. 78:25).

How could we not resonate with the passionate, instinctual, eager response by the crowd to Jesus after he describes "the Bread of God that comes down from Heaven"? How could our response be anything other than "give us this bread always"?

Jesus later told his disciples, "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." Then Jesus went on to say "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." Jesus gave us his flesh to eat in the form of the Eucharist because he loves us and does not want us to die either. God and Jesus both think alike, but more importantly, they both love us very much. God loves us unconditionally, even when the whole congregation of the Israelites complained against Moses and Aaron, God still answered their prayers. God answers our prayers and listens to our needs even we feel that we are alone, God is there with us because He loves us.