

August 8th - Nineteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time



I am the living bread that came down from heaven; whoever eats this bread will live forever.
— Jesus (John 6:51)

MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK

Saturday, August 7

9:00am † *Leticia Palpalatoc (8)*

4:30pm *St. John Parish*

Sunday, August 8

8:00am *Ann Lyons (healing)*

10:00am † *Eduardo Genoves*

12:00pm

Monday, August 9

9:00am † *Albert & Michael*

Gragnani

Tuesday, August 10

9:00am *Knights of Columbus*

Wednesday, August 11

9:00am † *Gualberto Espino Jr.*

Thursday, August 12

9:00am *YMI Brothers*

Friday, August 13

9:00am † *Benny Falcon*

Saturday, August 14

9:00am

4:30pm † *Rufino Labari*

From the Desk of the Pastor ...

In today's Gospel Jesus distinguishes between two kinds of followers: those who seek what they can get out of Jesus and those who seek a relationship with Jesus.

The former assume that Jesus' main job, as the Son of God is to take care of them. So when we pray, our prayers are answered. He leads us to jobs; he gives us roommates to share apartment costs; he gives us vehicles for transportation. When our needs change, so does our prayer life. We ask for bigger and better things: 'Jesus, give me a little privacy; make my job less stressful; get my parents, my teachers off my back; get my supervisors to back off.' These blessings seem great in the short run, especially if we get our way.

If children only ask for presents from their parents at Christmas and birthdays, the relationship is based on the things the parents provide rather than the love that is shared between them. The same goes for our relationship with Jesus. If we look to him only to rescue or provide for us, we have missed the most important point of the relationship, the love between him and us.

Jesus invites us to approach Him in the Holy Eucharist and foster a relationship with Him. A relationship, which awakens a passion in us, such that becomes the focus of our lives: to allow ourselves to be consumed by what we consume at the Table of the Lord.

In calling himself the 'living bread,' Jesus offers himself to us both as the life of God that animates us with compassion and righteousness and the love of God that binds us to the Father with selfless kindness and compassionate generosity to one another as brothers and sisters.

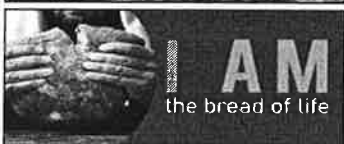
PARISH COMMUNITY NEWS

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.



Prophet Elijah was one of the greatest prophets in the Old Testament. He lived during a tumultuous time in Israel's history. The nation was divided and many of the people, including the leaders, were worshipping pagan gods. In fact, just prior to today's passage, Elijah had confronted the prophets of Baal, a prominent pagan god. He triumphed over them by challenging them to call fire down from heaven upon their altar. After hours of them invoking their gods and nothing happening, Elijah erected an altar, drenched it and the wood in water, and called down fire upon it from heaven. The one, true God answered and consumed the entire altar with fire. Elijah then had all the prophets of Baal killed. The king of Israel during this time was Ahab, who was not faithful to God. He and his wife, Jezebel, had led the people away from God and into worship of pagan gods, such as Baal. Thus, they were angry with what Elijah did to the prophets of Baal. As a result, Jezebel sought to have Elijah killed. It is within this context that today's first reading falls. When Elijah went to the desert he was fleeing for his life. This explains his state of anxiety and his desire to simply die there. Elijah probably felt exhausted and wanted to give up the very unpopular work of being a prophet. But that was not God's plan. God provided for Elijah's needs, sustaining him with food and drink. The miraculous provision of bread foreshadows the Eucharist discussed in today's gospel.

This weeks second collection is for the **2020 Archdiocesan Annual Appeal as of August 3, 2021.**

Parish Assessment \$ 33,576.00

YTD we paid: \$ 17,474.00

Balance we owe: \$ 16,102.00

Kindly consider helping meet our goal. Thank you for your continued generous support.

Today's gospel reading picks up soon after last week's reading from the "Bread of Life Discourse." While speaking with the crowds soon after the Multiplication of the Loaves miracle, during the time of the Passover, Jesus claimed to be "the bread that came down from heaven." This upset the Jews. They could not comprehend how Jesus could have "come down from heaven" when they knew his parents and his local origins. Jesus then explained that people would only understand His heavenly origins and, therefore, His identity by God revealing it to them. He then stressed the importance of faith by stating, "whoever believes has eternal life." Jesus also stressed that He is, in fact, "the bread of life." Last week we heard about the manna that God provided for the Israelites in the wilderness during the period of the exile. Jesus explained that although the manna provided for the physical needs of the people, it could do nothing to save them from death. The bread He offers can lead to eternal life. It is nourishment for the soul. It is, in fact, Jesus Himself who is this bread that sustains us and allows us to "live forever." And what is this bread? Jesus said, "the bread that I will give is my flesh for the life of the world." The bread is the Eucharist, which is the very body, blood, soul, and divinity of Jesus. It is food for our souls to unite us to God and grant us life everlasting. Therefore, let us come to the banquet and be nourished by the bread of life.

LAST WEEK'S COLLECTION

COLECTA DE LA SEMANA PASADA

July 26th - August 1st, 2021

Weekend Offering.....\$2,045.57

Reserve Fund.....\$1,065.00

Jesus said: "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. . . . For my flesh is true food, and my blood is true drink". The whole Christ is truly present, body, blood, soul, and divinity, under the appearances of bread and wine—the glorified Christ who rose from the dead after dying for our sins. This is the "Real Presence" of Christ in the Eucharist.