

Nineteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

August 11, 2024

I am the living bread that came down from heaven.

-- John 6:15



Daily Mass

Week of August 12th – 16th


- Monday: 8:00 Lenore McCracken+
- Tuesday: 8:00 Don Pierre Hébert+
- Wednesday: 8:00 Della Roberts+
- Thursday: 8:00 Brian Kahn+
- Friday: 8:00 Special Intentions



Please remember the sick in our Parish, especially Mike Abell, Mark Lutz, Michael Carter, Rufus Smith, Peggy Delson-Rini, Frank Rini and Cecilia Uyeda.

Weekly Collection	Plate
August 4, 2024	\$9,408.00
Missionary Co-Op	\$2,139.00

Holy Day of Obligation!



Thursday, August 15th, is the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary and is a Holy Day of Obligation. Mass is scheduled for the 8:00 a.m. daily Mass and 7:00 p.m. evening Mass.

Saints and Special Observances!

- Monday: St. Jane Frances de Chantal, Religious
- Tuesday: Sts. Pontian, Pope, and Hippolytus, Priest, Martyrs
- Wednesday: St. Maximilian Kolbe, Priest & Martyr
- Thursday: The Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary
- Friday: St. Stephen of Hungary

A Clear Conscience!

There's no pillow so soft as a clear conscience.

-- French Proverb

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Last week we celebrated the feast of the Lord's Transfiguration; it was August 6th. On that date in 1945 and a few days later the atomic bombing of the Japanese cities of Hiroshima and Nagasaki took place resulting in the instant killing of hundreds of thousands of non-combatant civilians.

This juxtaposition of the glory of Christ in the light of God, and the darkness of death in war is a graphic illustration of what we call the mystery of evil. If God is all powerful, how could he allow such a terrible destruction of human life and still be called all good? If he is all good, how could countenance such an evil crime to be perpetrated unless he is not all powerful?

The horror of those events continues today as we see enormous atrocities such as the wholesale destruction of Gaza; denial of food as an instrument of war; ambulances, schools and hospitals destroyed and with them enormous numbers of deaths, again of innocent civilians, mainly women, children and the sick and elderly.

The darkness of human sin and evil is all too evident. The mystery continues: human evil and darkness vs. the light of God in Christ. Our only refuge is the faith that, as John's gospel tells us, the light shines in the darkness and the darkness cannot overcome it. The glory of Christ shines in our hearts as we cry out against the evil of men, at home and abroad. The mystery remains and we pray that good will triumph at last.

Fr. Basil

Today's Readings!



First Reading -- After resting and taking nourishment twice, Elijah is strengthened to walk to the mountain of God, Horeb (1 Kings 19:4-8).

Psalm -- Taste and see the goodness of the Lord (Psalm 34).

Second Reading -- Be sealed by the Holy Spirit of God so as to be imitators of God and live in love (Ephesians 4: 30— 5-2).

Gospel -- Jesus professes that he is the living bread and whoever eats this bread will live forever (John 6:41-51).



Treasures From Our Tradition!

The roots of this week's feast of the Assumption can be traced back at least to the fifth century, when it is noted in the Armenian lectionary. Celebrated in Jerusalem, the feast in honor of the Theotokos, the Mother of God, became the principal feast of Mary throughout the Christian world. The place of celebration was at the tomb of Mary in Gethsemane and was therefore known as the "Dormition of Mary." In some cultures this feast is celebrated today with a resting statue of Mary, much like a wake service of modern times.

The liturgy of this feast provides images of "the place of your rest" in Psalm 132, and reverence for the Ark of the Covenant that held the signs of the Promise. Like that Ark, Mary is for us the ark of the Savior, the one who bore the Son of God. When the doctrine of the Assumption was defined in 1950, the Gospel reading for the feast was changed to include the verses of Mary's song, the Magnificat. The scripture readings for both the vigil Mass and the Mass of the day speak to us of life after death as well as the path to be followed in order to reach it. The key to this promised immortality is found as we take to heart the words of the vigil's Gospel, "Blessed are those who hear the word of God and observe it."

The Beginning of Everything!

Everyone recognizes the truth of good proverbs and so they endure from generation to generation. The Romans have a surprisingly bold one that fits this Sunday's Gospel: "Bread is the beginning of everything."

Judging from the first reading, Elijah might have felt that it was too late for bread -- too late for life itself. This great prophet was at the end of his rope and endurance. Then, not one, but two angels visit him. One offers food and drink. The other gives startling directions. For Elijah, this food from the angels is bread for his journey. On the strength of the heaven-sent gift of food, he walks to the mountain of God.

In today's Gospel, Jesus offers himself, not just as bread for the journey, but as bread for life itself. He gives his flesh as life for the world. "I am the bread of life" (John 6:48). He is the beginning of everything.



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Civil Discourse!

"Do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God." These words bring us up short! What could we be doing to grieve the Holy Spirit? Alas, the same things that the Ephesians were doing in the time of Paul, that is, fighting, shouting, reviling each other with fury, anger and malice. Just tune in to talk radio some day or observe some "road rage" on the expressway. If we who are partakers of the Body of Christ can treat one another this way, what does that mean about our belief in Christ's message of peace and reconciliation? The Eucharist is the sacrament of unity. It is communion with God and with each other. A good first step would be to speak civilly to each other, even in disagreement!

**Readings For The Week
August 12th -- 17th**

Monday: First Reading Ezekiel 1:2-5, 24-28c;
Psalm 148;
Gospel Matthew 17:22-27

Tuesday: First Reading Ezekiel 2:8-3:4;
Psalm 119;
Gospel Matthew 18:1-5, 10, 12-14

Wednesday: First Reading Ezekiel 9:1-7, 10:18-22;
Psalm 113;
Gospel Matthew 18:15-20

Thursday: First Reading Revelation 11:19a; 12:1-6a;
Psalm 45;
Second Reading 1 Corinthians 15:20-27;
Gospel Luke 1:39-56

Friday: First Reading Ezekiel 16:1-15, 60, 63;
Responsorial Psalm Isaiah 12:2-3, 4bcd, 5-6;
Gospel Matthew 19:3-12

Saturday: First Reading Ezekiel 18:1-10, 13b, 30-32;
Psalm 51;
Gospel Matthew 19:13-15

Fatima, Lourdes and Shrines of Spain Tour!

Starting from picturesque Lisbon, visit some of the world's most treasured Marian shrines, pilgrimage sites, and spiritual places of Portugal, Spain and France. Hear about the apparition of the Blessed Virgin to the shepherd children in Fatima; learn about the journey taken by pilgrims from all over the world into Santiago de Compostela; and visit Loyola and Manresa to get inspired by St. Ignacio's Jesuit Mission. In Braga, walk the monumental steps of the Sanctuary of Bom Jesus do Monte; and in Burgos, marvel at the majestic Cathedral. Join the nightly Rosary and candlelight procession in Lourdes. Spend one night by the inspiring Montserrat Sanctuary, where you will also attend Mass. End in Barcelona with time to celebrate life, reflect and rejoice. This twelve-day group tour includes hotels, guides, historians, land transportation, and eleven Breakfasts and seven dinners. Price starts at \$2,529, per person, based on double occupancy. For more information and to make a reservation, contact Catholic Cruises and Tours at (860) 399-1785.

Make Deposits!

Friendship is like a bank account. You can't continue to draw on it without making deposits.

-- Anonymous

