

18th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME - AUGUST 5, 2018

SUNDAY'S READINGS - EXCERPTS TO PLACE IN YOUR COMMUNICATIONS

First Reading:

"And in the morning you shall have your fill of bread,
so that you may know that I, the LORD, am your God." (Ex 16:12b)

Psalm:

The Lord gave them bread from heaven. (Ps 78)

Second Reading:

? put on the new self, created in God's way in righteousness and holiness of truth. (Eph 4:24)

Gospel:

Jesus said to them,

"I am the bread of life;

whoever comes to me will never hunger,

and whoever believes in me will never thirst." (Jn 6:35)

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WEEKLY READINGS AND OBSERVANCES - ENGAGE PARISHIONERS IN DAILY MASS AND PRAYER

Readings for the Week of August 5, 2018

Sunday: Ex 16:2-4, 12-15/Ps 78:3-4, 23-24, 25, 54 [24b]/Eph 4:17, 20-24/Jn 6:24-35

Monday: Dn 7:9-10, 13-14/Ps 97:1-2, 5-6, 9 [1a, 9a]/2 Pt 1:16-19/Mk 9:2-10

Tuesday: Jer 30:1-2, 12-15, 18-22/Ps 102:16-18, 19-21, 29 and 22-23 [17]/Mt 14:22-36
or 15:1-2, 10-14

Wednesday: Jer 31:1-7/Jer 31:10, 11-12ab, 13 [cf. 10d]/Mt 15:21-28

Thursday: Jer 31:31-34/Ps 51:12-13, 14-15, 18-19 [12a]/Mt 16:13-23

Friday: 2 Cor 9:6-10/Ps 112:1-2, 5-6, 7-8, 9 [5]/Jn 12:24-26

Saturday: Hb 1:12-2:4/Ps 9:8-9, 10-11, 12-13 [11b]/Mt 17:14-20

Next Sunday: 1 Kgs 19:4-8/Ps 34:2-3, 4-5, 6-7, 8-9 [9a]/Eph 4:30--5:2/Jn 6:41-51

Observances for the Week of August 5, 2018

Sunday: 18th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Monday: The Transfiguration of the Lord

Tuesday: St. Sixtus II, Pope, and Companions, Martyrs; St. Cajetan, Priest

Wednesday: St. Dominic, Priest

Thursday: St. Teresa Benedicta of the Cross, Virgin & Martyr

Friday: St. Lawrence, Deacon & Martyr

Saturday: St. Clare, Virgin

Next Sunday: 19th Sunday in Ordinary Time

GOSPEL MEDITATION - ENCOURAGE DEEPER UNDERSTANDING OF SCRIPTURE

August 5, 2018 18th Sunday in Ordinary Time

In an on-demand society, it's not always easy to imagine life with less. The crowds of Jesus' day depended on the weather and successful growing seasons for their livelihood. For many of Jesus' listeners, even "food that perishes" would have been a welcome relief. Jesus acknowledges this but tries to draw them deeper. "You are looking for me not because you saw signs but because you ate the loaves and were filled." For people who have just witnessed a miracle, the response is strangely marked by ingratitude. "What can you do? Our ancestors ate manna in the desert." Jesus fed them for one day, but Moses interceded with God for 40 years of bread. "Jesus," they seem to say, "can't you just give us more?"

How often do we behave similarly in the spiritual life? "If I only I had more patience, then I could be kind to her." "I could be welcoming if I was more outgoing, but that's just not me." "I know I'd be a better parent if I just had more time." Like the crowds, we want Jesus to give us more. We always don't want him to completely shift our paradigm. Perhaps it's not "more patience" we need, but a deeper sense of our own imperfections for a greater sense of empathy. Maybe God is inviting you not to entertain an entire group, but to seek out the quiet person on the fringe. And time may limit you from family engagement, but could God be asking you to reorder your priorities entirely?

After all, it wasn't more loaves that the people needed. Jesus is "the bread of life," who sustains our most essential needs. This week, are you looking for more or are you looking for God Himself?

LIVE THE LITURGY - INSPIRATION FOR THE WEEK

What can I do to accomplish the works of God? This is a question every Christian must ask. Ultimately, we are asked to be the light of Christ for others. This calls us to be compassionate, forgiving, nonviolent, generous, concerned for the poor, and welcoming to strangers. These are often contrary to what the world values. We are asked to simplify our lives and become less self-focused so that others can share in God's creation. We need help in order to fulfill this tall order. The Eucharist, the Body and Blood of Christ, which we celebrate today, is the way we are nourished so that we can fulfill this mission.

EVERYDAY STEWARDSHIP - RECOGNIZE GOD IN YOUR ORDINARY MOMENTS

As human beings, we seem to have a wide array of insatiable desires. We long for more money, more time, and more stuff. We spend millions of dollars each year on remedies for our overeating. We look to our neighbors to see what they have that we want so we can keep up with them in the race toward happiness. We look for instant gratification only to find that our hunger for whatever it is remains intact.

Stewardship is the pathway to curbing all those cravings. On this journey, we let go of things that keep us tied down to this world and tied up in our sin. All that we have becomes instruments for God to use in our lives and the lives of our neighbors. When we have detached from enough in this world, we find out the truth: Nothing on earth can truly satisfy our cravings completely. Jesus Christ is the sole answer for our needs and desires.

Although the truth is right in front of us at each and every Mass in the Eucharist, we can easily spend our days in denial of that truth. It takes trust to step out in faith and give it all over to God. We are all called to let go and let God be God. Answering the call is easier said than done. However, if we can finally make that bold move, we will find ourselves completed by the One who was with us all along.

--Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS

QUESTIONS OF THE WEEK - INVITE PARISHIONERS TO REFLECT AND RESPOND TO SCRIPTURE

First Reading

This reading from Exodus takes place in the early stages of Israel's 40-year desert journey. What do you think the Lord is trying to teach the Israelites?

Second Reading

Paul challenges the Gentile Christians of Ephesus to think and act in a new way as believers in Jesus. What makes this spiritual exercise so difficult for believers of any age?

Gospel Reading

Over the next four Sundays, the Gospel readings come from Jesus' extended Bread of Life Discourse. Jesus begins by describing himself as sent from God as "the bread of life." How does this metaphor for Jesus speak to you personally?

CATHOLIC QUOTES - WORDS TO INSPIRE THE FAITHFUL

We become what we love and who we love shapes what we become.

--St. Clare of Assisi

WHY DO WE DO THAT? - CATHOLIC LIFE EXPLAINED

Question:

On August 10, we celebrate St. Lawrence. He was a deacon who valued the true treasures of the church. Can you tell us more about him?

Answer: There is little known about Lawrence other than he was a deacon in Rome during the reign of Emperor Valerian from 253 -259. In 258, Valerian began a persecution of the leaders of the Roman Church. Lawrence was in charge of the purse for the church of Rome. Roman officials in need of money demanded that the riches of the church be handed over to them. Lawrence asked for a few days to gather them.

Lawrence took the money he had charge over and distributed it to the poor of Rome. Then he gathered all the homeless and the poor together. When the Roman officials came again demanding the riches of the church, Lawrence pointed to the destitute and homeless, saying that these are the true riches of the church.

For this he was imprisoned and tortured. Lawrence was put to death by burning on a gridiron. It is said that as he was dying, he told his executioners to turn him over because he was done on one side and needed to be fully cooked for the Lord. Lawrence continues to be a model for us today. The church needs continual reminders that its riches are the people. The primary purpose and mission of the church is to be continually sensitive to the needs of all God's people, most especially the least of our brothers and sisters.